

Identifying weeds

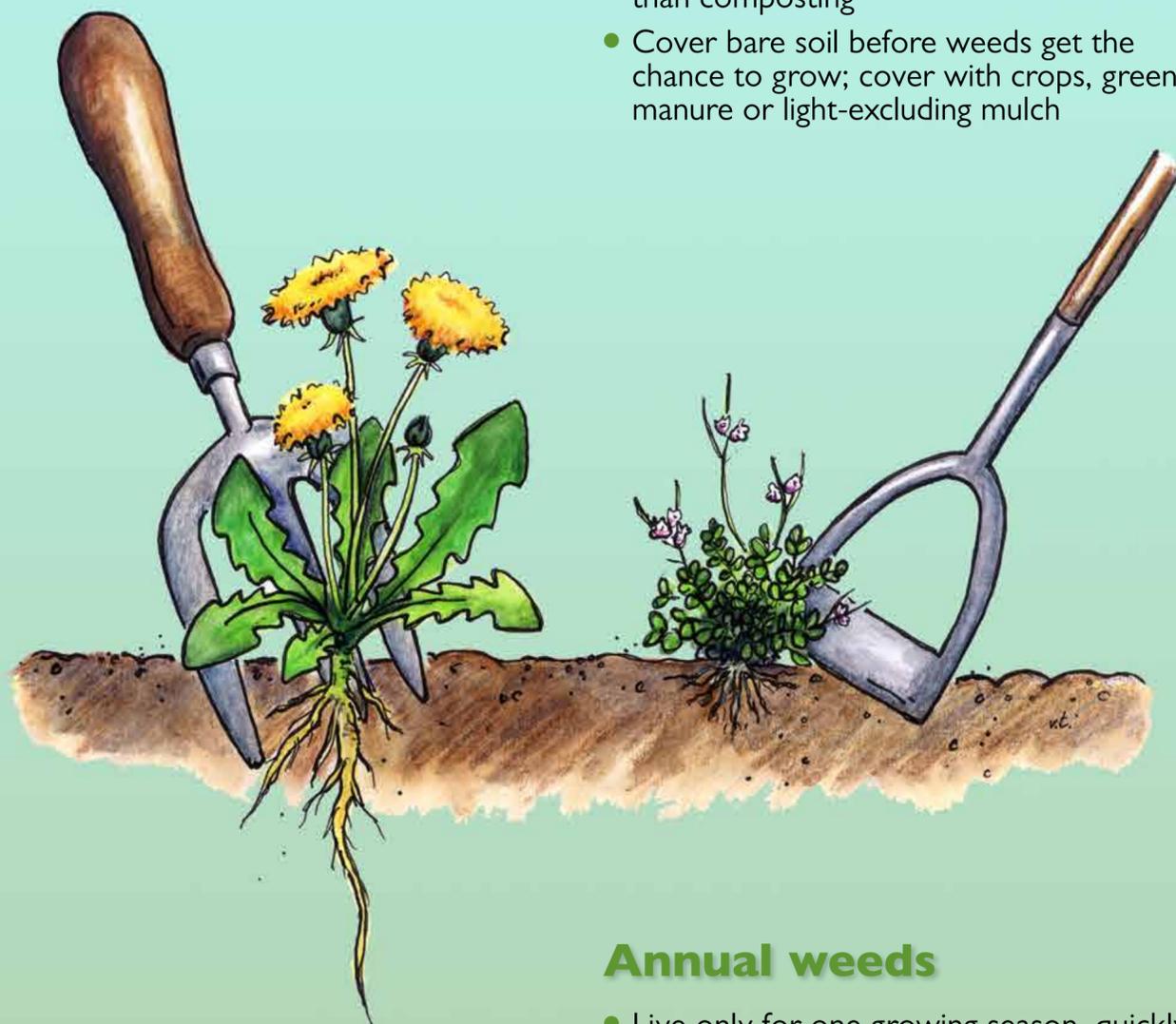
Learn to remove unwanted plants the easy way

Know your plants

- Remove weeds that compete with crops for light, water, nutrients and space
- Leave other weeds to flower, increase biodiversity and host natural pest predators
- Minimise soil cultivation to avoid bringing buried weed seeds to the surface

Learn the basics

- Tailor weeding for annuals and perennials
- Remove weeds when young and before seeds produced
- If weeds do set seed, throw away rather than composting
- Cover bare soil before weeds get the chance to grow; cover with crops, green manure or light-excluding mulch



Perennial weeds

- Live for several years, easily setting seed
- Have thick roots able to regrow from small pieces
- Dig out to remove as much root as possible
- Compost top growth, not roots, unless kept moist and stored first for 12 months in a plastic sack without light

Annual weeds

- Live only for one growing season, quickly setting seed
- Have fibrous roots that rarely regrow if top growth cut off when young
- Dig out or skim off top growth with a hoe
- Compost whole plants

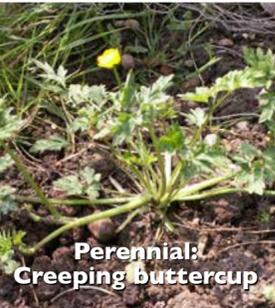
Illustrations: Verity Thompson



Perennial:
Dandelion



Perennial:
Dock



Perennial:
Creeping buttercup



Perennial:
Couch grass



Perennial:
Bindweed



Perennial:
Ground elder



Perennial:
Horsetail



Annual:
Common groundsel



Annual:
Annual meadow grass



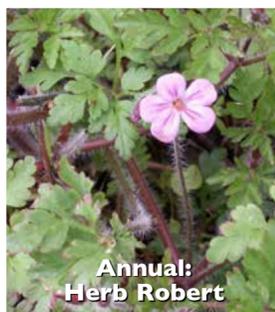
Annual:
Hairy bittercress



Annual:
Common chickweed



Annual:
Cleavers



Annual:
Herb Robert



Annual:
Fat hen

Further information

Booklets: Bronze, Silver and Gold

Organic weed management website

www.gardenorganic.org.uk/organicweeds



 garden.
organic