

There are Many Ways to Fight Weeds!

This activity is directly tied to the fourth spread, pages 7 and 8, in the *What's In Your World?* publication located inside the back pocket of the activity tool kit.

What do we do about weeds?

Without any natural enemies, noxious weeds can easily outcompete native plants and take over whole landscapes. These weeds are tough and don't give up easily. In this lesson students will learn about the many tools we use to stop the spread of noxious weeds. Students will also create skits to demonstrate integrated weed management and participate in a journaling activity to discover how they could be "Weed Warriors."



Levels
Grades 4-8

Subjects
Language Arts, Science, Performing Arts

Skills
Discussing, Demonstrating, Analyzing, Brainstorming

Concepts
Scientific investigation, interactions of living things and environments; connections of science, technology, society, and local landscapes

Objectives
Students will learn the term integrated weed management.
Students will explore the different techniques used to stop the spread of noxious weeds.
Students will investigate and discover ways they can contribute to noxious weed management.

Materials (20 student class-size)
What's in Your World? booklets (pp. 7-8) - 1 per student
noxious weed pamphlets *Why Should I Care?*
journals or notebook - 1 per student
pencil - 1 per student

Time Considerations
Preparation - 15 minutes
Activity - 70 minutes

Lesson Overview
• What About Weeds Skits (45 minutes)
• Weed Warrior Journaling Activity (25 minutes)

Background
Integrated Weed Management--the plan to beat weeds!
Without any natural enemies, noxious weeds can easily outcompete native plants and take over whole landscapes. These weeds are tough and don't give up easily.

So, many different tools are used to stop the spread of noxious weeds. Scientists call this "integrated weed management." This means that there is no one way to control weeds--we can stop them only by using many different tools. Stopping weeds is like stopping a wild-fire--when a forest burns, we respond by digging trenches in front of the fire.

Some weeds can be controlled by mowing them or pulling them out of the ground. But this is hard work, and some weeds have thorns or sap that can irritate your skin. We can weaken some of the weeds by spraying chemicals called "herbicides" on them. These chemicals soak into the plant and damage the roots, which is where weeds store their food. Sometimes fields are burned to get rid of weeds. Goats and sheep will eat some weeds, like leafy spurge. Some insects will eat weeds, too, and kids raise these insects at their school to later let them loose on weeds in the field. In most cases, it takes several methods to stop weeds in their tracks.