

Shandaken Community Gardens, Weeds and You

In community gardens there are many plants and flowers that people love to grow that can become problematic and spread easily by seeds, roots, or plant parts. This page is an attempt to teach about how invasive some plants can be, and also to create some best practices for eradication and containment so that invasive plants will not become a problem for the whole garden. It is not meant to be an all inclusive list, but as a tool for conversation and implementation in all SCG plots.

Weeds can be any plant –including ornamentals - unwanted in a specific location. Many plants commonly referred to as weeds have edible or medicinal qualities to them. Usually, we label a weed “good” or “bad” relative to our desires or objectives as gardeners.

The plants in column one are **not** allowed in Shandaken Community Gardens plots. While they may have aesthetic and/or nutritional value, they can become unruly. For the harmony and ease of the garden as a whole, please plant them at home, rather than at the community garden. The plants in column two require containment and careful observation, and the ones in the third column should be tended with great care.

If you are cultivating wild edibles, do not let them go to seed. Please deadhead plants, or seeds will be carried on the wind into neighboring beds!

Invasive Weeds (Should NOT Be Planted)	Careful Containment <u>Required</u>	Control and Containment Recommended
Bamboo	Bee balm	Borage
Blackberry	Fennel	Burdock
Comfrey	Horseradish**	Calendula***
Dandelion	Mints* (incl. lemon balm, cat nip)	Horsetail
English Ivy	Oregano ****	Sunchoke*
Garlic Mustard	Sage****	
Milkweed	Strawberry	
Morning glory (self- seeding can get out of control)		
Wild onion		

Suggestions for managing perennial edibles in columns two and three:

- * All **mints** must be in pots (bottoms of pots can be cut out);
sunchokes also work in large pots.
- ** Provide solid (wood etc.) edging approx. 18” deep to control the spread of your plants (especially for **sunchokes** and **horse radish** which spread underground by tubers/roots). Dig entire taproot. Deadhead prior to seed setting.
- *** Dead head **calendula** flowers. Harvest frequently.
- **** Cut back **sage** and **oregano** frequently. Edge to control spreading roots. Deadhead prior to seed setting.