

# Do Not Kill: Avoid Toxic Weed Killers in Your Garden and Yard

*Therefore strive that your actions day by day may be beautiful prayers. —'Abdu'l-Bahá*

"Unless ye must, Bruise not the serpent in the dust, How much less wound a man.  
And if ye can, No ant should ye alarm, Much less a brother harm."

[—Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá](#)



Glyphosate, the chemical in the weed killer Roundup, is harmful to humans and all life. Exposure to glyphosate has been linked to incidences of cancer. It also harms pets and wildlife. And, of course, it kills weeds. But what are weeds? Weeds are plants that grow in a location where you do not want

them to be. If you want to grow lettuce or strawberries, you do not want other plants to take nutrients and space away from them. While weeding by hand is relaxing for your soul, it is time consuming and can be physically demanding. But you can choose some natural methods to avoid too many weeds. These include mulching and preventing weeds from going to seed by cutting off their flowers. "[10 NON-TOXIC WAYS TO CONTROL WEEDS](#)" provides even more methods.

However, you might want to consider weeds from another perspective. Weeds really are in the eye of the beholder. In most areas, wild plants should be appreciated and not be removed. Enjoy your lawn with a diversity of colors. Endangered bees and bumblebees will thank you for the blooming dandelions and clover. Moreover, many weeds are edible, highly nutritious, and delicious, especially when harvested young. These include dandelion, lambs quarters (wild spinach), pigweed (Amaranth), chickweed, plantain, and purslane. Recipes abound on the web, but be careful to eat only plants from areas not treated with lawn chemicals. Eating a diversity of food, including some weeds, is healthy for humans and is essential for the survival of wildlife. Ceasing to be stressed by weeds will free up time and energy for more productive pursuits.