

Weeds

Weeds can be one of the biggest challenges with growing organically. However, if you remove weeds before they get out of control, they aren't so bad!

Common weeds in the Beaufort Delta region

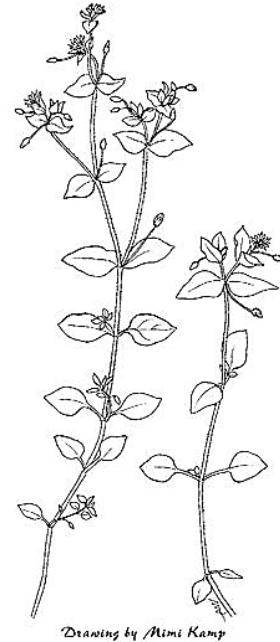
Lamb's quarters



Golden rod



Chickweed



It's also important to keep in mind that not all weeds are as bad as they seem! Lamb's quarter is edible and can be eaten in salads, while nettle and plantain have medicinal qualities. Weeds are also indicators of soil health. For example, the presence of chickweed and lamb's quarters indicate high soil fertility.

However, weeds also use up nutrients, crowd out root crops, shade other plants, provide habitat for pests, and make it more difficult to harvest crops.

Ideas for weed control:

- Avoid using compost that had weeds added to it
- Use a hoe to uproot weeds or pull weeds by hand
- Once pulled from the ground, allow weeds to dry out and die, at which point they can be added to compost
- Weed when the plants are small to minimize disturbance to other plants in your garden; but make sure you wait until you know what is lettuce and what is a weed!
- Use mulch in between your rows so that weeds cannot grow (e.g., cardboard)