

DANDELION

ARE THEY A PROBLEM?

YES

- Compete with other plants for space and moisture.
- Seeds blow into other areas including neighbours' yards.
- A **WILDFLOWER** garden is a **BETTER** source of pollen for bees.
- Some people find them unattractive.

NO

- Improve soil by breaking it up/aerating it.
- Deep taproots bring nutrients to the surface and make them available to other plants.
- Early source of pollen for bees (but low in protein and not that nutritious).
- All parts are edible **but BE AWARE:**
 - There are other plants with similar leaves - make sure you're eating the correct plant.
 - Dandelions contain latex and some people are allergic.
- Can be fed to livestock (including backyard hens).
- Some people find them attractive.

HOW TO IDENTIFY?

- YOU KNOW what they look like 😊

HOW DO THEY GROW?

- Long, deep taproots.
- Spread by **SEED**.
- Prefer sun and infertile, compact soil.



Taraxacum
officinale

HOW TO CONTROL?

- **MAINTAIN A HEALTHY LAWN.**
- Vacuum seeds with shop-vac.
- Individual dandelions can be **WEEDED** - make sure to get as much of the taproot as possible.
- Weed when soil is moist; use a long, thin weeding tool to loosen soil around root.
- Cover **LARGE AREAS** with cardboard and mulch.

Sources: Parish, Coupe, and Lloyd. *Plants of the Southern Interior and Inland Northwest*, 1996.
Royer, F. and Dickinson, R. *Weeds of Canada and the Northern United States*. 1999.
Sims, C. *My Yearly Dandelion Spring Rant*. Halton Region Master Gardeners, 29 March 2022.
<https://haltonmastergardeners.com/2022/03/29/my-yearly-dandelion-spring-rant/>