



Foundational Skills: Grounds Maintenance Answer Key

Activity – Weeds

1. Weeds grow faster than other plants. They rob other plants and grasses of nutrients and water from the soil and light from the sun.
2. **Annual weeds:** roots have a fibrous system that spreads out just beneath the surface of the soil. Annual weeds seem to pop up suddenly in little clusters around the parent weed. They are surface roots so they are easy to remove.

Perennial weeds: roots have a taproot system that can grow deep into the soil. They are tough and well anchored and can stretch up to 20 feet away from the parent plant. If the taproot is cut, new plants will grow from the site. Some perennial weeds have woody stems and are very difficult to remove.

3. What are two things you can do to help control on-site weeds?
 - a. Recognize weeds
 - b. Take action – pull or dig weeds out
4. Soil contains pockets of air that collect water, when these pockets freeze and then thaw out, they heave the soil. When the soil heaves, it loosens and breaks apart, making it easier to pull up the tough perennial weeds.

Activity – Canadian Weeds

- Answers will vary.



Activity – What’s the Problem?

1. What caused the problem? Students should be expected to write in simple, clear sentences. Answers should include a statement of the problem and a suggested possible cause.
 - a. Snails/slugs
 - b. Aphids
 - c. Fly larvae/beetle or moth activity
 - d. Grubs
2. Matching plant pests to the description of plant damage
 - a. Beetles
 - b. Aphids
 - c. Mice and rabbits
 - d. Slugs
 - e. Beetles and caterpillars
 - f. Rabbits
3. Answers will vary.

Activity – Evidence

Answers will vary.

Activity – Dutch Elm Disease

Answers will vary but should include the following facts:

1. Fungal disease of elm trees
2. Spread by a bark beetle
3. Upper branches begin to wither and turn yellow in the summer months – spreads down the entire tree, the tree loses its leaves and thereby starves the roots.
4. There has not been much success in treating Dutch elm. Once a tree is infected, it likely will die.



Activity – Bacteria and Viruses

Answers will vary but should include the following facts:

1. Blight
 - Complete dieback of shoots, branches or entire plants
 - Can be caused by bacteria or fungi
 - Contaminated tissues remain attached to healthy plants
2. Gall
 - Abnormal swelling of plant tissue
 - Can be caused by bacteria, fungi and insects
3. Rot
 - Any of several plant diseases, especially a disease of peach, plum, apricot, cherry, and related plants, characterized by wilting and browning of the flowers and leaves and rotting of the fruits
4. Researching one plant virus

Answers will vary.

Activity – Plant Problems

Answers will vary.

The answers in this Answer Key were originally created by Community Literacy of Ontario and the Tri-County Literacy Council (based on Curriculum originally produced by Literacy Link Eastern Ontario). We are grateful for their permission to use this material.