

# GARDENING TIP

By Cordell Vail

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## Weed control with black plastic

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You are likely into gardening now. In most areas of the country your peas should be up by now and if you are daring even beans and corn. I hate weeds. So where possible I use black plastic to cover the ground around my plants so I don't have weeds.

To do that you put down the black plastic before planting. Do not cover it with dirt. Just put rock weights or little wood stakes driven through it to hold in down from the wind.

Now to plant the seeds or transplant your plants into the garden, just cut little holes the size of a milk carton lid for seeds. For transplants, cut an X in the plastic big enough to let the root ball in but then the X flaps will fold back around the transplanted plant stem when you are done.

Here are some pictures of the black plastic idea to keep weeds out of your garden. (These pictures are inside my green house but it works just as well in your garden outdoors to keep weeds away:

**My peas coming up through the hole in the black plastic**



**My beans coming up through the hole in the black plastic**



**Here you can see the little pea patch in my green house with the whole floor covered with black plastic and then holes cut for the peas to come up through:**



**NO WEEDS.... WAHOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**When I water I just put the water under the plastic and flood the area. In the garden, you have to be a little more creative than in a small green house. When you plant the row, make a furrow on each side of the row so water will run**

down the furrow. Be sure to make the row on a little of an incline so the water will run from one end to the other. When you are ready to water, just put the hose under the plastic at one end (with a gentle stream nozzle so it won't damage the first plants. Now let it run until it comes out the other end. This is just old fashioned farm irrigation by flooding. The black plastic is said to save about 80% of the water because it does not evaporate like it would if the soil is open to the air all the time.

Black Plastic works well most any place you are wanting to control weeds in your garden. Black plastic is quite inexpensive at the hardware store but it will deteriorate after one or two years of use and you will have to keep replacing it. Sure beats weeding.....

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