

Weeds

*Jackie H., Bedford Extension Master Gardener, Virginia
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“My parents migrated from the Army base in Ayre, Massachusetts, in 1944 to a tiny town in New Hampshire. Dad was a farm boy from Lebanon, New Hampshire, so he knew his way around a huge vegetable garden. He grew one every year. My Mom was a “newbie”, a city girl, from Waltham, Massachusetts, which is a large city west of Boston.

That union gave the world two girls with more children to come as we settled in New Boston, New Hampshire, in a beautiful New England farm house that needed lots of tender loving care. The years went by and two more daughters were added to the brood. Our brother was born much later.



[pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)

As I entered elementary school, apparently my Dad thought I should lend a hand in the vegetable garden which by this time had become quite extensive. (Each year we had come canned vegetables and fruits in the winter along with Mom’s home baked pies, muffins, breads, cookies and baked beans.)

One gorgeous summer day we shoshed through the tall grass along the path to the garden. I followed behind letting the tall stalks brush against my extended hand. We approached the neat rows of various seedlings. He pointed to a row of something and told me to weed it. I proceeded along the row taking out all sorts of “weeds”. Once my father caught wind of what I was doing, he hustled over and gave me a chewing out. Not only had I pulled weeds, but every carrot seedling.

To this day I make sure I know a weed from a vegetable seedling. Each is different don’t your know?”

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