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The Reminisce News

Arbor House Reminisce | 151 48th Ave SW Norman Ok, 73072 | (405) 310-2499 |



Happy Mother's Day

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Garden of Weedin'

Weeds. The bane of every carefully manicured lawn and garden. Once weeds take hold, their removal may require hours of backbreaking, frustrating, and never-ending work. Yet some gardeners actually encourage weeds to grow amongst their prize flowers and shrubs. After all, what is considered a weed and what is considered a desirable plant all depends on your point of view. During May, Gifts from the Garden Month, consider the benefits that some weeds bestow upon your garden.

Weeds have been defined as “plants growing in the wrong place.” Ralph Waldo Emerson famously stated that a weed is a “plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.” Others take a harsher tone, worrying that weeds are competitive superplants that outcompete and overwhelm the flowers or shrubs we prefer because they grow so vigorously. The truth seems to lie somewhere in the middle. Yes, weeds are aggressive. But it also turns out that some savvy gardeners have uncovered their Emersonian virtues.

Dandelions are often the first weed we learn to recognize. It is one of many weeds that are edible. The plant's leaves, flowers, and roots are not just edible; the root is also considered medicinal. Furthermore, dandelion roots loosen hard-packed soil while accumulating essential nutrients like potassium, phosphorus, and magnesium. White clover acts in a similar fashion, showing up wherever soil lacks nitrogen, a molecule necessary for plant growth. White clover transfers nitrogen from the air to the soil. The flowers of clover also attract pollinators and other insects beneficial to the garden. The broadleaf plantain weed, once called the white man's foot by Native Americans because it seemed to grow wherever European colonists stepped, also accumulates nutrients in the soil. Of course, many of these weeds produce massive amounts of seeds, so while they do benefit the garden, they may soon overrun your more desirable flowers. Weeds have benefits, but they must be managed and cared for, just like any other garden flower.

A
mother's
Love is the
Heart
of a family.





