How Weeds Get Everywhere!

How come weeds get everywhere in our gardens? One minute your lawn can be lovely and green and the next minute it's covered - and I mean covered - in dandelions! Well, it's all to do with the clever way that plants spread their seeds to keep making more plants.

Making the Seeds

So, how do the plants make so many seeds?

Most plants are made up of some female and male plant parts. Bees and other insects come to the flower because they smell nice and have lovely colours. While the bees are in the flower, they help move pollen around to fertilise the plant. Sometimes even the wind can help with moving the pollen around to the right places.

Once the plant is fertilised, the seeds can grow. When this happens in a dandelion, the yellow flower turns into what we call a dandelion 'clock'. If you look closely at a dandelion clock, it is full of dark coloured seeds with light, feathery, white tops that look like umbrellas.





Fact File

- A weed is only a plant that someone does not want in their garden. They can be very pretty!
- Nettles can be used for making tea and medicines, so they are really useful.
- The world's largest weed is giant hogweed. It can grow up to 3.65m in height and have leaves that measure 91cm long.
- Some people think that if you hold a buttercup under your chin and the yellow reflects on your skin it means that you like butter.

Spreading the Seeds

So, how do the seeds get everywhere?

This is the clever bit...

As we said before, dandelions make lots and lots of seeds that look like umbrellas. This makes the seeds really good at floating and flying through the air. So, all they need is the wind to carry them off to another part of the garden, or sometimes even further. Before you know it, there are hundreds of seeds all over your lawn. These seeds are all ready to germinate and make yet more dandelions. Other flowers and plants have other clever ways of spreading their seeds, including putting them inside tasty fruit so that animals eat them. Eventually the seeds come out of the other end in their poo and start to germinate!

Questions about How Weeds Get Everywhere!

1. What is the name of the world's largest weed?

2. Which animals can move pollen around in the flower?

3. What are the dark-coloured objects that you can see in a dandelion clock?

4. What is a good thing that nettles can be used for?

5. What makes dandelion seeds good at floating in the air?

6. What do some people think it means if a buttercup reflects yellow under your chin?

7. How tall can the largest weed grow?

8. How many questions are there in the text?

9. In paragraph one, the author has used the contracted word **it's**. Write the full words without the apostrophe.

10. What happens when you blow on a dandelion clock and how does that help the dandelion?