All about...

1.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!

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Questions about 1. 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?

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Questions about 1. How Weeds Get Everywhere!

Answers

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

   Giant hogweed

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

   A bee or other insect

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

   Seeds

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

   Making tea or medicine.

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

   Accept any reference to them being; light, feathery, like an umbrella.

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

   It means you like butter. You could discuss whether they think this is true.

7. How tall can the largest weed grow?

   3.65m / 3.65 metres.

8. How many questions are there in the text?

   (Use question marks to spot them) 3

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

   It is

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

    You blow the seeds off the seed head and help it by spreading its seeds.

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2. 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 reproduce and spread their seeds far and wide to keep their species alive.

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 are attracted to the flowers because of their lovely smells and colours. While they are at 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 (also called a 'seed head'), 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 are used for making tea and medicines, so they are actually very 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. They all have feathery, white tops that look like umbrellas. This makes the seeds brilliant at floating and flying through the air. So, all they need is the wind to carry them near and far. Before you know it, there are hundreds of seeds all over your lawn, which are all ready to germinate and make yet more dandelions. Other flowers and plants also 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.

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Questions about 2. How Weeds Get Everywhere!

1. Name the world's largest weed.

2. Name something mentioned in this text, other than bees and other insects, that can move pollen around in the flower.

3. What is another name for 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. Name another way mentioned in this text, apart from the wind, that seeds can be spread around to germinate in other places.

7. How tall can the largest weed grow?

8. What does 'germinate' mean in the final paragraph?

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

10. In the first paragraph, what does the word 'reproduce' mean?

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Questions about How Weeds Get Everywhere!

Answers

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

   Giant hogweed

2. Name something mentioned in this text, other than bees and other insects, that can move pollen around in the flower.

   Wind

3. What is another name for a dandelion 'clock'?

   Sead head

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

   Making tea or medicine

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

   Accept any reference to them being; light, feathery, like an umbrella.

6. Name another way mentioned in this text, apart from the wind, that seeds can be spread around to germinate in other places.

   Animal poo

7. How tall can the largest weed grow?

   3.65m / 3.65 metres.

8. What does 'germinate' mean in the final paragraph?

   Start to grow from a seed

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

   It is

10. In the first paragraph, what does the word 'reproduce' mean?

   To make more of / make another one / produce offspring.

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3.How Weeds Get Everywhere!

Ever wondered how weeds seem to get everywhere in our gardens? One minute your lawn can be lovely and green and the next it's covered - and I mean covered - in dandelions! Well, it's all to do with the clever way that plants reproduce, and spread their seeds far and wide to keep their species alive.

Making the Seeds

So, how do the plants make so many seeds?

Many plants have female parts (including the ovule and stigma) and male parts (including the stamen). Bees and other insects are attracted to the flowers because of their lovely aromas and colours. While they're at the flower, they help move pollen from the male parts to the female parts in order to fertilise the plant. This process is called pollination. Sometimes the wind can also help with this.

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, or 'seed head', 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 actually very 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. They all have feathery, white tops that look like umbrellas. This makes the seeds perfect for floating and flying through the air. So, all they need is the wind, which carries them off landing near and far – some up to 500m away from the parent plant. Before you know it, there are hundreds of seeds all over your lawn, which are all ready to germinate and make yet more dandelions. Other flowers and plants also 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!

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Questions about 3. How Weeds Get Everywhere!

1. Name one of the female parts of the flower.

2. Name something mentioned in this text, other than bees and other insects, that can move pollen around in the flower to help with pollination.

3. What is another name for 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. Name another way mentioned in this text, apart from the wind, that seeds can be dispersed.

7. What is the furthest distance a seed can float away from the parent dandelion?

8. What does 'germinate' mean in the final paragraph?

9. In paragraph two the author has written the contracted word **they're**. Write the full words without the apostrophe.

10. In the first paragraph, what does the word 'reproduce' mean?

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Questions about 3. How Weeds Get Everywhere!

Answers

1. Name one of the female parts of the flower.

   Ovule or stigma

2. Name something mentioned in this text, other than bees and other insects, that can move pollen around in the flower to help with pollination.

   Wind

3. What is another name for a dandelion 'clock'?

   A seed head

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

   Making tea or medicine

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

   Accept any reference to them being; light, feathery, like an umbrella.

6. Name another way mentioned in this text, apart from the wind, that seeds can be dispersed.

   Through animal poo

7. What is the furthest distance a seed can float away from the parent dandelion?

   500m/500metres

8. What does 'germinate' mean in the final paragraph?

   Start to grow (from the seed)

9. In paragraph two the author has written the contracted word they're. Write the full words without the apostrophe.

   They are

10. In the first paragraph, what does the word 'reproduce' mean?

   To make more of / make another one / produce offspring.

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