

# Selective Weeding - 1

The landscape around Communities and Homelands has usually been disturbed for the purposes of erecting buildings and houses. Land clearing results in the loss of perennial forms of ground cover and the regrowth of plants which are less desirable in the landscape. These plants can be "selectively weeded" from the ground cover as was practiced at Umuwa for many years. The following pictures illustrate the process.

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## 1. Vegetation to Remove



This picture shows some young camel melon seedlings (*Citrullus lanatas*). Camel melons are vines and with good rain, grow very quickly covering and smothering any vegetation around them. Buck bush (*Salsola kali*) and cathead (*Tribulus terrestris*) are another two plants that are not needed in the garden or landscape and should be removed.

If plants like cathead, have gone to seed, lift the whole plant with a shovel and put it into a drum to be burnt. This prevents seed from germinating in the next season. Khaki weed (*Alternanthera pungens*) is another plant that should be removed and burnt.

There are a number of other plants like ruby dock (*Acetosa vesicaria*) that should be removed from the garden and landscape.

Leave the remaining plants to continue growing and produce a landscape like the one in the next picture.

## 2. Vegetation to Keep



This picture shows the results of selective weeding. Native millet (*Panicum decompositum*) and parakeelya (*Calandrinia sp*) plus daisies have been left to grow.

Grasses are really good to keep in the garden and landscape. They are attractive in both the green and dry forms.

Pretty flowers are also good to keep. For many years the yellow daisy (*Calocephalus platycephalus*) and many other daisies continued to grow in the landscape at Umuwa. The ruby dock, camel melon and catshead were continually removed and the result was very effective. It was easy work to remove these plants, especially when they were young.

Many people remove all the plants from the landscape leaving a bare soil surface. Seeds of plants that are less desirable, grow quickly under these conditions making the landscape unattractive.

Selective weeding is effective and highly recommended for improving gardens and landscapes in Communities and Homelands.