

Dandy... or not?

Many people think dandelions make lawns ugly. Dandelions crowd out grass and can damage sidewalks and pavements. But people long ago thought dandelions were dandy. They used them for medicines. They made fried flower blossoms and leafy salads. They boiled and fried roots and made roasted root tea. Some people still do!

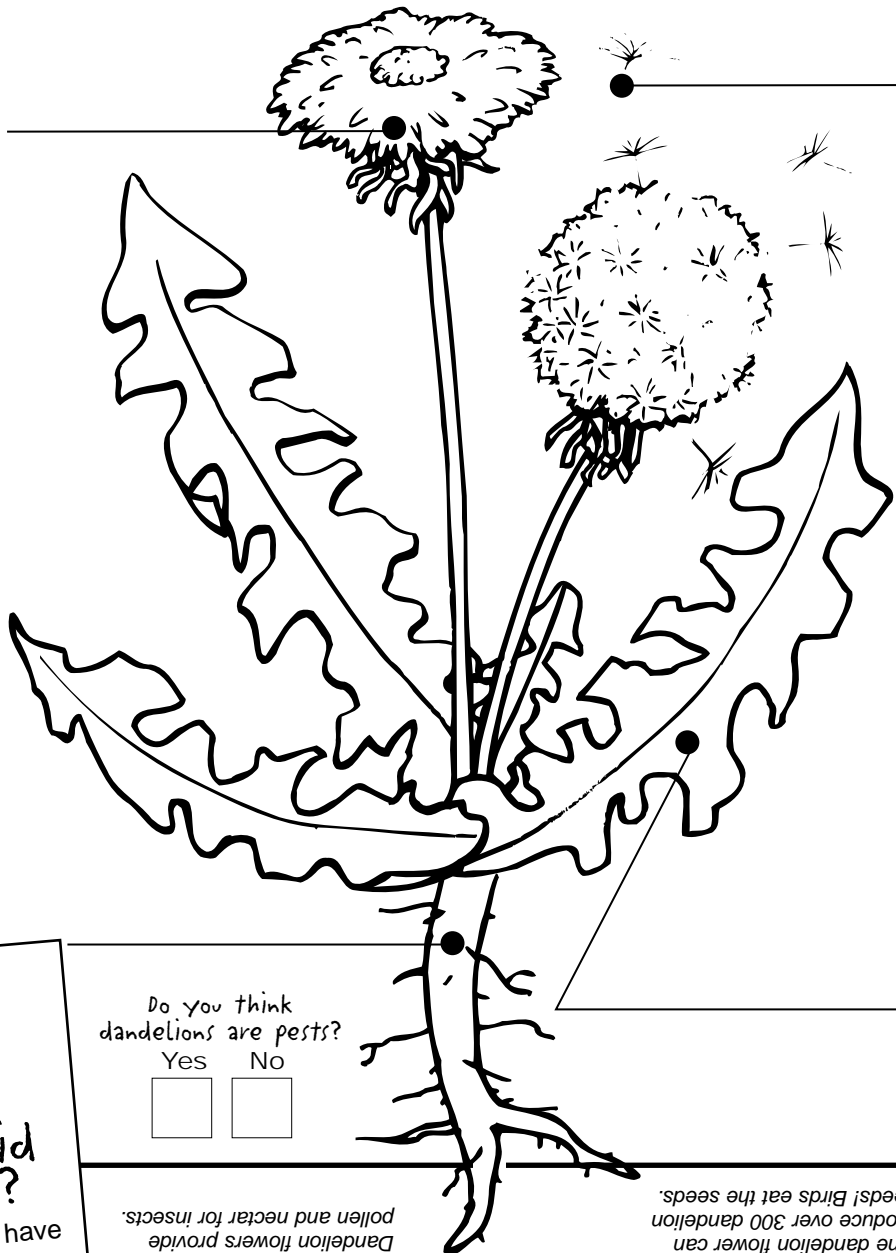


Color the dandelion. In the blanks, write some uses for each of its parts.

Dig THIS!

What can you do with dandelions?

- Make a bouquet.
- Make a snack!
Gather dandelion leaves. Choose leaves from young plants that have not yet blossomed. Wash, dry, and chill until you have 1 cup of leaves. Whirl in a blender until smooth:
 - 1 cup dandelion leaves
 - 1/4 cup chopped nuts
 - 1/2 cup cottage cheese
 - 1-2 tablespoons mayonnaise
 Spread on crackers and eat!
- Tie-dye a t-shirt! The dandelion's yellow flowers, green leaves, and red roots can be used to make colorful dyes.



Do you think dandelions are pests?

Yes No

Dandelion flowers provide pollen and nectar for insects.

One dandelion flower can produce over 300 dandelion seeds! Birds eat the seeds.

Mr. and Mrs. Ard Godfrey moved from Maine to Minnesota around 1850. Mrs. Godfrey missed dandelions for making wine and salads. She had seeds sent from Maine to grow dandelions here. That's how dandelions came to Minnesota!



TIP

Want to get rid of dandelions? Pull them out while they still have yellow flowers—BEFORE they can spread seeds.

