They’re a home owner’s nemesis and a young kid’s delight. Whether they’re yellow flowers dotting an otherwise perfect lawn or white puffs ready to be blown away by a sudden gust, [dandelions](http://www.botanical.com/botanical/mgmh/d/dandel08.html) are either hated or loved by just about everybody.

**One Dandelion=Many Flowers**

What looks like a single yellow flower growing in your lawn is actually many flowers grouped together. Each section of the flower that looks like a petal is actually an individual flower in its own right.

A dandelion is an aggregate of many small flowers and each individual flower has its own stamens and pistil, and therefore can reproduce without fertilization.

After a dandelion has bloomed, each of the individual flowers within a single dandelion forms a seed. The seed is attached to fluffy white threads, which allow the seed to fly to a place where, if it meets favorable conditions, it can germinate to create another dandelion.

**A Tenacious Spirit**

Even if you hate [this common weed](http://www.colostate.edu/Dept/CoopExt/4DMG/Weed/weeds.htm), you’ve got to respect its tenacious spirit. Dandelions are native to six continents, and are found throughout the world except in the tropics.

Their impressive roots, which can be up to a foot long, allow them to thrive in inhospitable environments, like big cities, where most flowers and weeds can’t even survive.

Cut off a dandelion at the surface and the root will grow another plant. But dandelions aren’t just annoying weeds; they’ve been used throughout history in a variety of ways.

**Dandelion Salads?**

Dandelion leaves have been [eaten as salad greens](http://oldfashionedliving.com/dandelion.html). They’ve also been dried [to make dandelion tea](http://www.dandeliontea.org/); dandelion flowers have been used to make wine and schnapps. In addition, the milky juice of one kind of dandelion has been used to make a natural rubber.

他们是一个家庭主人的克星和一个小孩的喜悦。无论是黄色的花朵点缀在一个完美的草坪上，还是白色的泡芙准备被突然的阵风吹走，[蒲公英](http://www.botanical.com/botanical/mgmh/d/dandel08.html)要么被所有人所憎恨或喜爱。

### 一个蒲公英=很多花

看起来像是在你的草坪上生长的一朵黄色花实际上是许多花组合在一起。看起来像花瓣的花朵的每一部分实际上都是一朵独立的花朵。

蒲公英是许多小花的集合体，每朵花都有自己的雄蕊和雌蕊，因此可以在没有受精的情况下繁殖。

蒲公英开花后，单个蒲公英中的每朵花都会形成种子。种子附着在蓬松的白色线上，这使得种子能够飞到一个地方，如果它满足有利条件，它就会发芽，形成另一个蒲公英。

### 顽强的精神

即使你讨厌[这种常见的杂草](http://www.colostate.edu/Dept/CoopExt/4DMG/Weed/weeds.htm)，你也必须尊重它的顽强精神。蒲公英原产于六大洲，除热带地区外，遍布世界各地。

它们令人印象深刻的根源，长达一英尺，可以让它们在恶劣的环境中茁壮成长，就像大城市一样，大多数花草都无法生存。

切断表面的蒲公英，根将生长另一种植物。但蒲公英不只是令人讨厌的杂草; 它们在历史上以各种方式被使用。

### 蒲公英沙拉？

蒲公英的叶子被[当作沙拉蔬菜吃](http://oldfashionedliving.com/dandelion.html)。他们也被烘干[以制作蒲公英茶](http://www.dandeliontea.org/) ; 蒲公英花已被用来酿造葡萄酒和杜松子酒。另外，一种蒲公英的乳状果汁已被用于制造天然橡胶。