

How to make a Weed Weasel

This homemade double-sided throwing rake (affectionately dubbed the weed weasel) is a handy tool for sampling a plant community. The weed weasel is made from two sawed-off garden rakes bolted together back-to-back. The tines are tied together with “quick-connect” ties, and a 20 to 30 foot length of rope is attached by means of an eyebolt. Also, when using any sampling rake, be sure to remove all plant fragments generated during the process from the water.



Note that the weasel is for point sampling only—NOT for “cleaning up” the lake bottom.

Here are the instructions for building your own weed weasel.

Materials Needed:

- 2 garden rakes
- 2 regular bolts
- 1 eyebolt
- 3 nuts
- several tie-wraps
- 20-30 feet of line (clothesline is OK)
- duct tape

Tools needed:

- drill
- saw



- Saw off the rake handles at 1.5 to 3 feet.
- Place the rakes back to back (tape them together with duct tape to hold them tight).
- Drill a hole through both handles near the top of the handles, at the middle, and near the bottom.
- Place bolts through two lower holes and secure with nuts. Use the eyebolt in the top hole.
- Tie the rakes together with tie-wraps between tines.
- Tie the line to the yoke part of the weasel and thread through the eyebolt.

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