

Sunchokes (Helianthus tuberosus) don't play nice with other plants. They smother them in the shade of tall stems, and thick leaves. This makes them pros at wiping out grass and weeds to make way for new plantings.

Viola (Viola spp) make a low carpet of green. If a gap in the cover

What might our future tools look like?

RATHER THAN ROOTS  
IN THE DISTANT DARKNESS OF SHALE AND OIL WELLS,  
THEY MIGHT HAVE ROOTS IN THE  
FERTILE SOIL OF OUR GARDENS.

RATHER THAN FILLING  
THE AIR WITH TOXIC FUMES OF GREY SMOKE,  
THEY COULD PERFUME THE AIR  
WITH PLEASANT ESSENTIAL OILS  
THAT ATTRACT BEES AND BUTTERFLIES.

THEY MAY BE PLANTS.

Mint (Mentha spp) run aggressively. Although they can do well under management, they're getting a foothold beyond making quick cover once mulch is applied.

Daylilies (Hemerocallis fulva) act as a trellis for vining plants. So paired, they make excellent cover better than either could used alone.

Low-growing, spreading with pretty blue flowers in spring and reddish purple leaves through the winter in most climates. Well-managed, it could be the basis for a garden, or an entire lawn.

Strawberries (Fragaria spp) vary from the clumping Alpine strawberries to the running wild Virginia strawberries. While blocking weed invasion in beds and spreading to conquer new planting spots, they provide a bonus harvest of luscious, sweet fruit.