

The top half of the image features a brown, textured background that resembles leather or a similar material with a repeating pattern of small, irregular shapes.

# AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

TOPIC:



**WEED**

# OUTLINE

- Overview
- Meaning of weeds
- Common weeds
- Classification of weed
- Characteristics of weed
- Methods of weed dispersal
- Effect of weeds on crops
- Control methods of weeds
- Effects of weed control on the environment
- conclusion



# OVERVIEW

Weed can be defined as any plant growing where it is not planted. Since they are not planted by anyone, how do they come to be in such places..? Do they have legs or are they simply transferred by something else..? well, read on and see the answer to the above questions including their types, effects methods of control.

# MEANING OF WEED

A weed is an unwanted plants seen in the farmland.

OR

A weed is a plant considered undesirable in a particular situation, "a plant in the wrong place".

Some of these weeds can be valuable consumable crops while some are grasses. They are unwanted because they were not deliberately planted by the farmer and most times, they affects the growth and development of the main plants. For example, a potato plant growing in a yam farm is a weed, rice grains growing in a cassava farm is a weed as far as it was not deliberately planted by the farmer.

# COMMON WEEDS



*Pennisetum purpureum*  
(Elephant grass)

*Aspilia Africana*  
(Aspilia)



*Axonopus compressus* (Blanket  
grass)





# COMMON WEEDS

*Paspalum conjugatum* (buffalo grass)



*Axonopus fissifolius* (carpet grass)

*Mimosa pudica* (sensitive or humble plant)



# CLASSIFICATION OF WEED

- Based on life span (Ontogeny), **weeds** are **classified** as:

1. Annual **weeds**,
2. Biennial **weeds** and
3. Perennial **weeds**.

**Weeds** that live only for a season or a year and complete their life cycle in that season or year are called **annual weeds**, those that live and complete their life cycle within two years are called **biennial weeds** while those that last for many years are called **perennial weeds**.



# CHARACTERISTICS OF WEEDS

- The **weeds** seed germinate early and the seedlings grow faster. ...
- They flower earlier and most times mature ahead of the crop. ...
- They are unuseful, unwanted and undesirable.
- They are harmful to crops and human-beings.
- They can survive even under adverse conditions.
- They are persistent and aggressive etc.

# METHODS OF WEED DISPERSAL

Because weeds are not deliberately planted by a farmer, some of the ways they can be transported or dispersal include:

1. By Wind especially light and small seeds such as tridax and aspilia
2. By water such as wild cotton and water lilies
3. By man and animals especially those weeds that can stick to human clothes and animal skins such as desmodium and triumphetta
4. By explosive mechanism for those weeds with seeds that explode once they are matured scattering the seeds to nearby lands. Examples are centrosema, crotolaria etc.

# EFFECTS OF WEEDS ON PLANTS

- **Weeds** reduce farm and forest productivity
- They invade **crops**, smother pastures and in some cases can harm livestock.
- They aggressively compete for water, nutrients and sunlight, resulting in reduced crop yield and poor crop quality.
- They contaminate produce, for example: Burrs in wool contaminate fleeces.
- Some weeds harbor pests that attack crops
- Removing the weeds in farmlands increases the cost of farming etc.



# CONTROL METHODS OF WEEDS

Weeds can be controlled using any of the following methods:

1. Cultural weed control method such as burning, crop rotation, mulching, hand pulling, weeding etc.
2. Biological weed control method such as cover cropping, use of parasitic insects, grazing animals etc
3. Chemical weed control methods such as selective herbicides or non-selective herbicides etc.

# EFFECTS OF WEED CONTROL ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Although weed control through any of the above methods is good, but precaution has to be taken to avoid harm or danger to the environment such as:

1. Pollution of soil
2. Ground water contamination
2. Contamination of livestock pasture
3. Poisoning of crops etc.

# CONCLUSION

Although weeds are seen as undesirable, but the fact remains that some of them are of great importance to both man and animals. They can be used as food and herbs by man, pastures for animals and can also shield a land from erosion.

Hope you enjoyed the lesson...? Please find the assignment and assessment files on this topic and attempt the questions. Good luck! and See you soon!