

Weed

Definition: Weed is unwanted and undesirable plant which interferes with the utilization of land and water resources and adversely affects of human welfare.

“A weed is a plant growing where it is not desired”. Jethrotull (1737).

• **The term "weed" was firstly used by Jethrotull.**

‘Weed is a plant growing out of place’. **Bill.**

‘A weed is a plant whose potentialities for harm are greater than its potentialities for good’ **Peter.**

Characteristics of Weeds:

1. Weeds are prolific, with abundant seed production & *Amaranthus* spp.
2. Weeds remain dormant and viable for 30 to 40 years eg. *Chenopodium* spp.
3. Some weeds are propagated by vegetative part eg. *Cynodon* spp. *Convobuslus* spp.
4. Some seeds of weeds are very similar to crop seeds and their separation becomes a problem & mustard and *Argemone* spp.
5. Weeds are persistent and resistant to their control and eradication.

Classification of Weeds.

(a) On the basis of site of predominance:

(1) **Obligate weeds:** Such weeds are grown only in association with man and his agriculture. It is never found in wild form ex, *Amagallis*, *Chienopodium* spp etc.

(2) **Facultative weeds:** Such type of weeds are grown both as wild and in cultivated habit *Argenione mexicana*, *Euphorbia hirta* etc.

(b) On the basis of dependence of host:

- (1) Total root parasite – *Orobanche*.
- (2) Total stem parasite – *Cuscula*.
- (3) Semi root parasite – *Striga*.
- (4) Semi stem parasite – *Loranthes*

(c) On the basis of botanical characters:

- (1) Grasses.
- (2) Sedge.
- (3) Broad leaf.
- (4) Narrow leaved weed.

(d) On the basis of season:

(1) Kharif weeds: In this group, the plant required more temperature and humidity at the time of sowing and dry atmosphere at the time of maturity.

For Example- *Amaranthus viridis* (Junglee chaulai) *Boerlarvia diffusa* (Vishkhopora) *Cassia occidentalis* (Kasaundhi) *Cyprus rotundus* (Motha) *Euphorbia tryniloia* (Chhoti duddhi) *Digem arvensis* (Lahsua)

(2) Rabi Weeds: In this group, the plant required low temperature at the time of sowing and more temperature and dry weather at the time of maturity.

For Example- *Anagallis arvenis* (Krishna nil) *Argentone mexicana* (Satyanashi) *Conolulu arvensis* (Hiran khuri) *album*) *Cuscuta reflexa* (Dodder).

(e) On the basis of propagation methods:

- (1) Weeds which propagate by seed. E.g. *Chenopodium album*
- (2) Weeds propagate by vegetative parts. E.g.
- (3) Weeds which Propagate by roots.

- (4) Weeds which Propagate by leaves.
- (5) Weeds which Propagate by stem.
- (6) Weeds which Propagate by seeds as well as vegetative parts.

(f) On the basis of cotyledons:

- (1) Monocot weeds- Chenopodium album, Dub grass
- (2) Dicot weeds- Krishna neel,

(g) On the basis of soil and water relationship:

- (1) Weeds of Desert.
- (2) Weeds of water logged soil.
- (3) Weeds of marshy lands.
- (4) Weeds of elay land.
- (5) Weeds of dry areas.
- (6) Weeds of alkaline soils.
- (7) Weeds of acidic soil.
- (8) Weeds of cultivated lands.
- (9) Weeds of grazing lands.

(h) Other basis:

- (1) Relative weed - rice in wheat.
- (2) Absolute weeds- Cyprus rotundus.
- (3) Rogue - off type crop variety.
- (4) Volunteer weeds.
- (5) Mimicry weeds - Phalaris in Wheat crops.
- (6) Noxious weeds – Partherium.

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