

Topic: Weed (1)

Definition of Weeds: Weeds are plants growing, where they are not wanted. Weeds are strong and healthy and can overgrow valued plants by overcrowding them. Weeds are injurious to cultivated plants and are nuisance to the farmer. They grow everywhere, on land and in water.

Examples of weeds are stubborn grass, Elephant grass, spear grass, Goat weed, Tridax, Desmodium, water leaf among others.

CHARACTERISTICS OF WEEDS

- i. Persistence: They have the ability to remain in the ground and grow under adverse climatic and soil conditions.
- ii. High regenerative ability: They grow very fast and cover the land very quickly.
- iii. High reproductive capacity: They produce fruits and seeds which are easily carried and spread all over the place by man, animals, wind and water.
- iv. Possession of various devices for dispersal: Weeds are distributed through many ways such as hooks, spikes, parachute of herbs,

IMPORTANCE / USES OF WEEDS

- a) They add organic matter and nutrients to the soil when buried in the soil as green manure.
- b) They help to control soil erosion
- c) Some can be used as animal feeds e.g elephant grass, tridax guinea grass.
- d) Some weeds are used as vegetables by man (Water leaf, bitter leaf, African Spinach)
- e) Some weeds have medicinal value (bitter LEAF)
- f) Some weeds are used to produce ornament e.g cactus.

<u>COMMON NAMES (WEEDS)</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>
1. Water leaf	Talinum triangulare
2. Goat weed	Ageratum conyzoides
3. Siam weed	Chloromolaena odorata
4. Sensitive plant	Mimosa pudica
5. Sida weed	Sida acuta
6. Water hyacinth	Eichhornia crassipes
7. Water lettuce	Pistia stratiotes
8. Death grass	Celestia trigyna
9. Blue father	Commelina nudiflora
10. Wild marigold	Asilia africana
11. Bahama grass	Cynodon dactylon

12. Guinea grass

13. Striga (Witch weed)

14. Pig weed

Panicum maximum

Striga hermonthica

Amaranthus spinosus