



Studies on weed science: Effects and susceptibility

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DESCRIPTION

Weed science is a scientific discipline concerned with plants that may be considered weeds, their effects on human activities, and their management", a branch of applied ecology that stabs to modify the environment against natural evolutionary trends." Weeds have existed since humans began settled agriculture have been since the advent of settled agriculture around 10,000 years ago it has been proposed that the most common characteristic of the ancestors of our presently dominant crop plants is their willingness for their tendency to be successful, to thrive, in disturbed habitats, mostly those around human dwellings. Farmers have likely always been conscious of weeds in their crops, although the evidence for their awareness and concern is nearly all anecdotal. Weeds are organised in much of the world by hand (roguing) or with crude hoes. More human labour may be expended to weed crops than on any other single human creativity, and most of that labour is expended by women. Weed control in the Western world and other developed areas of the world is done by urbane machines and by substituting chemical energy (herbicides) for mechanical and human energy. There is a relationship between the way farmers control weeds and the capability of a nation to feed its people. Insects cause both human health and crop problems. Weeds, with a few exceptions, do not cause direct harm to humans. Those that do such as poison ivy and poison oak can be evaded. Poisonous weeds have never been widespread as a weed of crops nor of great distress to the majority of people. Many weeds intensified human allergies but many did not and other common plants are also allergenic.

Insects and insecticides were respectively causes of and solutions to human disease problems. Weeds and herbicides were not and less consideration was paid to them. Weeds and herbicides were agricultural problems. They were not of general communal concern. There were a few scientists interested in the study of weeds and in developing techniques to ease the crop losses caused by weeds. Weed science has been strongly influenced by herbicides and mechanical technology developed by supporting industries, by research by weeds scientists, and, eventually, used by farmers. Herbicides greatly stretched the opportunities and range of methods for vegetation management and weed control. Weed scientists have inclined to focus on results and progress.

CONCLUSION

Modern agriculture in the world's developed nations has addressed but not excluded most weed problems through extensive use of herbicides and the more recent development of herbicide resistant crops through genetic modification. These methods while undeniably successful for their intended purpose also have produced environmental, non-target species, and human health problems. Neither the hypothesis that more energy is consumed for the weeding man's crops than for any other single human task nor the corollary hypothesis that women do most of the world's weeding has been verified, but they are widely accepted.

Weed science no longer focuses absolutely on agriculture, with applications in industrial activities like maintaining railroad rights-of-way, controlling invasive species (including aquatic weeds) in natural areas and sports/park/home lawn care.