

# Practical Management Weeds

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## Weeds? What's a weed

1. a valueless plant growing wild, especially one that grows to the exclusion or injury of the desired crop.
2. any undesirable or troublesome plant, especially one that grows profusely where it is not wanted.
3. plants that are competitive, persistent, pernicious, and interfere negatively with human activity (Ross, et. al.)

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## Weeds? Characteristics

- a) abundant seed production;
- b) rapid population establishment;
- c) seed dormancy;
- d) long-term survival of buried seed;
- e) adaptation for spread;
- f) presence of vegetative reproductive structures; and
- g) ability to occupy sites disturbed by human activities

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## Weeds? Negatives

- a) reduced crop quality by contaminating the commodity;
- b) interference with harvest;
- c) serve as hosts for crop diseases or pests
- d) limit the choice of crop rotation and cultural practices
- e) production of chemical substances which are toxic to crop plants (**allelopathy**), animals, or humans

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## Weeds? Positives

- soil stabilization and structure
- habitat and feed for wildlife and beneficials
- nectar for bees
- aesthetic qualities
- add organic matter
- provide genetic reservoir
- human consumption; and
- provide employment opportunities.



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## Keeping Weeds Out Vehicles

- Who is driving through your vineyard
  - Where was the vehicle last night?
  - What is it carrying?
- Farm machinery
  - Where is it housed
  - Contractors cleaning protocols



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### Keeping Weeds Out

Refuges

- What source of seed are on your property
  - Are you managing them
- Creek lines and waterways
- Road verges
  - Can you manage these?
- Adjoining properties
  - May need to focus management to on border



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### Keeping Weeds Out

People

- Tourists
- Seasonal pickers and regular staff
  - What are they bringing with them
  - Where are they living
- Visitors
  - Crop scouts
  - Researchers



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### Many Little Hammers

- • Crop weed interference
- – Crop species/Cultivars
- – Seed size/quality
- – Transplant
- – Seeding rate
- – Row spacing/space
- – Resource placement
- – Nutrient source
- – Stale seedbed



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