Weed Control

Ohio State offers digital guides to weed identification and management.

*by **Tracy Turner,** Ohio State University*

Weed scientists in the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at Ohio State University (OSU) have developed several digital weed identification and management guides for growers and are now offering them on both Android™ and Apple operating platforms.

The guides, written by members of the OSU Weed Team, help growers identify weeds in order to manage them before they take over their fields, said Mark Loux, an OSU Extension weed specialist. OSU Extension is the statewide outreach arm of the college.

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"The guides were adapted to be added to the Android platform after we heard from farmers that they wanted to have both options," Loux said. "*The Noxious Weeds of Ohio* guide was also updated with more photos and descriptions of an expanded Ohio noxious weed list."

The publications are:

▶ The *2015 Ohio State University Guide to Weed Identification,* available as an iBook that can be downloaded for $9.99 through Ohio State's Digital Bookstore at *digitalbookstore.osu.edu/book/ ohio-state-university-guide-weed-identification.* It can be downloaded for $9.99 through the Google Play™ store at *go.osu.edu/ weedguidedroid.*

The guide is an excellent tool for growers, presented in a digital format that offers pictures of various weed species at different stages of maturity and 360-degree movies for most species, said Bruce Ackley, an OSU Extension program specialist in weed science.

The 205-page guide also provides information on the basic principles of weed identification, he said. It describes 29 families and 85 species of monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous plants. Plant descriptions include key identification characteristics, Ackley said.

▶ The *Principles of Weed Ecology and Management* guide can be downloaded for $4.99 via iTunes at *go.osu.edu/weedecology* and on Google Play at *go.osu.edu/ weedecologydroid.* It is also used as a lab

manual for the weed science course at Ohio State, Loux said.

The guide provides information on the basic principles of weed science and describes 46 families and 100 species of monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous plants. Plant descriptions include key identification characteristics, pictures of the various species at different stages of maturity, and 360-degree movies for most species. This book includes a number of the most common Midwestern U.S. weeds and how to identify them.

▶ The *Identifying Noxious Weeds of Ohio* guide can be downloaded for free on iTunes at *go.osu.edu/noxiousweed* and on Google Play at *go.osu.edu/noxiousweedroid.*

This updated guide provides technical descriptions and photos for Ohio's 21 invasive and noxious weed species, including information on habitat, life cycle, key plant characteristics and a summary of problematic features. The guide also includes photos of weed species at different stages of maturity for optimal identification aid.

It also provides information on Ohio's noxious seed law, Extension guides to weed control and a quick guide to weed regulations in Ohio law, Loux said.

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Editor's Note: *Tracy Turner is a technical editor, news and marketing, for the Communications and Technology Department of Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.*