

WEED MANAGEMENT

(Field Exercise)

Identification

- Tour fields and identify most common weeds (star thistle, pigweed, purslane, chicory, wild lettuce, grasses, etc.)
- Discuss why weeds are threatening to production – competition for water, nutrients in soil, light, etc.
- Pull or dig selected weeds and examine root system

Management through manual cultivation

- Demonstrate and practice proper techniques with various tools – wheel hoe, stirrup hoe, collinear hoe, and Mexican hoe. Discuss need for follow-up cultivation.
- Benefits – eliminates weeds, stirs soil and breaks crust (allows for easier penetration of air and water)