

Integrated Weed Management: Fine Tuning the System, Erin Taylor, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Michigan State University

“Integrated Weed Management: Fine Tuning the System” (E-3065) is a new 136-page, all color bulletin from Michigan State University Extension. This new publication compliments “Integrated Weed Management: One Year’s Seeding...” (E-2931), released in February 2005. Feedback from an extensive survey of “One Year’s Seeding...” was positive, however it was determined that there were many questions remaining regarding weed management in sustainable farming systems. “Fine Tuning the System” was written to further address specific areas of interest in weed management. The chapters in the new bulletin include: complex crop rotations, cover crop systems, manure and compost, flaming for weed management, grazing and other biological controls, weed thresholds, on-farm weed management trials, and 14 weed profiles. In addition to being available in bulletin form, excerpts will also be made available on MSUweeds.com.

Similar to “One Year’s Seeding...” this guide does not provide detailed management plans. Each chapter looks at how different cultural and management practices affect weeds. Our goal was to compile written information from researchers and extension personnel across the North Central region and to also include input from experienced growers as much as possible. The diverse crop rotations chapter features four to nine year rotations from growers around the North Central region along with the benefits and issues seen by the grower. Four chapters (i.e. cover crop, manure and compost, flaming, and grazing chapters) each feature the profile of a grower with extensive experience in the chapter’s subject. And finally, ten grower-designed on-farm trials testing IWM practices are outlined in the last chapter.

Workshops teaching the principles from each chapter in “Fine Tuning the System” are currently being held throughout Michigan and the surrounding states and Canadian provinces.

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