

All Crops, January 13, 2003

WWWEED SCIENCE ON THE WEB: HYPER INFORMATION OR SOUPED UP POST-IT NOTES?

Andy Kendig

Extension Weed Specialist

Commercial Agriculture Program

MU Delta Center

We launched a Delta Center Weed Science Website. I was originally a bit ashamed. Everyone has a website where they slap all kinds of stuff on the Internet, and now we were joining the club. When I go surfing I usually find everything EXCEPT what I really needed. You can drown in data, thirsting for knowledge. We wanted our website to be different. We wanted it to be USEFUL!

To make it useful, we ask for advice, but growers tend to be too shy. So instead we made the website useful for ourselves and hoped that would also make it useful to growers and agricultural professionals.

Sometimes people would call and ask when meetings were. Sadly, we'd forget and would have to stall them while we looked it up. We had to check our calendar. So that was the first thing we put on the website- a Calendar of Agricultural Extension events for the Missouri Delta. We use it all the time- we hope you'll give it a try.

Another great utility is when folks have a hard time getting our Missouri Weed Control Guide. It's up there in a section of extension guides in an Adobe Acrobat file. It's identical to the one you have to order from the county extension office.

We have a small, "Frequently Asked Questions" section. It contains links to a pesticide label website, information on the Southern Weed Science Weed ID Guide, the Certified Crop Advisor Program, Links to information on Pesticide Applicator Licenses and some special information on glyphosate, pesticide testing and kudzu control.

With permission of Mid-America Farmer Grower we have all of the Delta Center Weed Science Mid-America Farmer Grower Columns posted there. There is also a section designed for agricultural research representatives. It's open to the public, but not very friendly. You need special, expensive software to access the files.

Finally, last but not least, we have the lousy section that EVERY website has...Links to other links which link to even more links!

Check it out sometime <http://www.psu.missouri.edu/deltaweeds>. There are also links to it (and links back) to the Delta Center Website, the Missouri Rice Site and Commercial Agriculture's AgEBB. Let us know what you think. It's hard to make things useful, but we want to try. We hope that this website will serve the region well as an electronic collection of key post-it notes.