

Four Corners Organic Weed Management Project

Questionnaire

Spring 2009

Analyzed by Jim Dyer, June 2011

A total of 51 questionnaires were reviewed from workshops in 2009 (32) and 2010 (19). Two respondents were known to have filled out forms in both years, so only the 2009 version of each was used yielding a total of 49 forms analyzed here.

(Note: questions about organic methods refer simply to techniques that you understand would be allowed under organic certification whether you are certified or not.)

1. Name (optional):

2. Location:

3. Are you answering these questions

As a grower?

If so, what do you grow?

Are you certified organic?

As one who assists growers (e.g., Extn agent, etc.)?

In another role?

4. In your experience, or for those you assist, do weeds significantly reduce profitability and/or change what you try to grow?

Explain:

Yes: varied responses

No: mostly no explanation; a few indicated no weed problems of consequence

5. How would you describe your basic approach to weed management?

n=46

(interpretations from open ended responses)

14 included synthetic herbicides including IPM

5 included barriers (other than natural much)

2 included organic herbicides

Others mainly included hand weeding, hoeing/cultivation, and natural mulching

6. How knowledgeable are you about organic weed control (certified or not)?

n=46

(interpretations from open ended responses)

28 not very knowledgeable

15 moderate or better knowledge

3 responded but didn't answer question

7. Why do you use, recommend, or consider using organic methods (whether certified or not)?

n=44

(interpretations from open ended responses)

Almost all referred to personal views regarding health, safety, and environment.

Only one listed only that customers wanted organic methods.

8. What is your view on using chemicals such as vinegar or other chemicals approved for organic production — do you prefer chemicals over other methods, avoid them, or...?

n=45

(interpretations from open ended responses)

Some prefer not to use them.

Some want to know more.

Some are interested and want to know more.

Many seem to lump organic and synthetic chemicals together.

9. Where do you get, or try to get, information on organic weed management and how useful is that information source?

n=43
(interpretations from open ended responses)
Numbers mentioning the following (multiple answers allowed)
Extension: 17
Internet: 17
Classes, conferences, workshops, including OWM: 17
Magazines and publications: 4
Books: 11
Word of mouth: 2
Supply houses: 1
Answered but gave no sources: 5

10. Please list your three most significant weeds and your current management techniques for them:

Weed #1 and how you control it:

Weed #2 and how you control it:

Weed #3 and how you control it:

Most common weeds in rough order of prevalence:

bindweed
knapweed
thistle
grass
cheat grass
mallow

Most common controls in rough order of prevalence:

hand weeding, digging, pulling
spraying
hoeing
tilling, disking
burning

What do you hope to gain from participating in this project? Only included in 2009, not analyzed