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STUDY MATERIAL SCIENCE

CLASS-VIII

Date : 27-04-2021

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▸ Crop production and management Textbook Topic

Weed control :

When fertilisers are added to an irrigated field, it also provides ideal conditions for seeds other than the crop seeds to grow. Hence, in a field sown with a crop. Many other undesirable plants called **weeds** often grow naturally alongside the crop plant. **Weeds** can be defined as plants that grow where they are not wanted. Unless weeds are removed or killed, they compete with the crop plants for water, nutrients, light and space and thus, reduce the crop yield. Some weeds produce seeds that are poisonous & may pose a serious health risk for animals and human beings if they get mixed with the seeds of the main crop.

Farmers resort to several methods of weeding to remove weeds and control their growth. The best time for the removal of weeds is before they produce flowers and seeds. Tilling the soil before sowing is one of the most effective ways of removal of weeds.

Weeds can also be removed manually by uprooting or cutting them close to the ground from time to time. This is done with the help of a small implement called the **khurpi**. A seed drill can also be used to remove weeds by uprooting them.

The chemical control of weeds involves the use of certain chemicals called **weedicides** such as **2,4-D ethyl ester**. These chemicals are diluted with water and sprayed in the fields to kill weeds. They act only on weeds and do not damage crops. To be most effective, weedicides are usually sprayed during the vegetative growth of weeds before flowering and seed formation. However, spraying of weedicides may pose a risk to the health of farmers. They need to take proper precautions like covering their nose and mouth with a piece of cloth or mask while spraying these chemicals.