HERBIGUIDE: A COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR WEED AND PEST CONTROL INFORMATION

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HerbiGuide is a computerised decision aid for weed and pest control information for broad-acre agriculture, horticulture and plantation situations. It was designed for advisers and farmers requiring rapid, tactical weed and pest control solutions plus back up information to support their decisions.

A typical enquiry involves entering the crop and weed and their growth stages and/or insects. Herbicides or insecticides that can be used in this situation are displayed. Both label and trial rates are presented. for each solution together with the constraints that are likely to influence the choice of pesticide, such as varietal sensitivities and conditions required for best results. For multiple weeds, insects or combinations, least cost mixtures of herbicides and insecticides, including compatibilities, can be generated using linear programming techniques. This can also be used to determine the shadow prices of alternative pesticides so that strategies for particular markets can be formulated.

To assist with identification, photographs, diagrams and descriptions are provided for weeds and insects. A multiple choice key using easy-to-recognize characters is also included to help identify the major weeds.

Herbiguide can also be used in reverse where a particular combination of herbicides and insecticides is entered and the crops on which they can be used and the weeds and pests that they will control is presented.

A model to determine the optimum rate of diclofop for controlling ryegrass in wheat is also included. In the herbicide and insecticide descriptions thresholds for control and other non chemical control techniques including eradication strategies are described where they are known.

Material Data Safety Sheets for the herbicides and insecticides are currently included and labels will be included in the next edition.

HerbiGuide is updated annually at shereware prices. The updates include prices for the current season, new herbicides and research information gathered in the previous season.

A free demonstraion CD, or the program for $495, is available from the author.

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