



**1<sup>st</sup> SEM. 2004/2005**

**PAGE 1 OF 4**

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER**

**PROGRAMME: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE - CROP  
PRODUCTION  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE -  
HORTICULTURE**

**COURSE CODE: CP 501**

**TITLE OF PAPER: WEED SCIENCE**

**TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTION: ANSWER FOUR QUESTIONS. ANSWER QUESTION  
1 AND ANY OTHER THREE [3] QUESTIONS.**

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BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

**INSTRUCTION: ANSWER FOUR QUESTIONS. ANSWER QUESTION 1 AND ANY OTHER THREE [3] QUESTIONS.**

**QUESTION 1**

**(THIS QUESTION IS COMPULSORY)**

- (a) What do you understand by Weed Science? (5 marks)
- (b) Briefly explain what a weed is? (5 marks)
- (c) List 10 characteristics of weeds. (10 marks)
- (d) State the scientific name of an introduced weed that has become a major problem in Swaziland in the past few years. (5 marks)
- (e) How does the weed named in (d) above influence the agricultural environment? (5 marks)
- (f) State how the weed named in (d) above is usually propagated. (10 marks)

**[40 marks]**

**QUESTION 2**

- (i) List and discuss five harmful effects of weeds, giving examples in each case. (10 marks)
- (ii) List and discuss five benefits of weeds, giving an example in each case. (10 marks)

**[20 marks]**

**QUESTION 3**

- i. What do you understand by weed ecology? (4 marks)
- ii. Draw a simple diagram to illustrate the weed-crop ecosystem. (4 marks)
- iii. Give four reasons why there is a shift towards ecologically-based weed management systems in modern times. (4 marks)
- iv. Briefly explain what you understand by ecological succession. (4 marks)
- v. List three factors that plants compete for. (3 marks)
- vi. Name one factor that plants do not compete for. (1 mark)

**[20 marks]**

**QUESTION 4**

(a) After graduation, you are employed as an Assistant Weed Scientist in Malkerns Research Station. Your work involves advising extension officers on how to teach local farmers the basic control methods of weeds in their farms. One extension officer from a locality where sorghum is grown comes to you for advice. Another extension officer comes from a locality where field bean is grown; she also comes to you for advice. Using your knowledge of weed management, discuss the advice that you would provide for ONE of these two extension officers regarding the weed control methods that should be adopted for the specified crop.

(15 marks)

(b) Specify one weed control method that you would not recommend, and state reasons for not recommending it.

(5 marks)

**[20 marks]**

**QUESTION 5**

Briefly, but clearly explain the meaning of each of the following terms:

- (i) Noxious weed (4 marks)
- (ii) Weed prevention (4 marks)
- (iii) Weed control (4 marks)
- (iv) Weed eradication (4 marks)
- (v) Weed management (4 marks)

**[20 marks]**