

A Walk on the Weeded Side

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The weed garden was established at the south end of the turf center property in 1998. This display has been very useful for learning the identification of broadleaf and grassy weeds of turf. Proper identification is the first step to control. Although very labor intensive, the garden has been very useful during training sessions with extension agents, and visits from lawncare operators. With the help of the MTF, exceptional progress has been made in the last two summers. The number of specimens has increased and the quality of specimens has also improved. Due to the popularity of the weed garden, permanent plastic signs have been made to identify the plots year-round. Maintaining the weed garden has, in itself, been educational and illustrative of the varying conditions and challenges associated with different weed species. Understanding the factors that favor the growth and development of certain weeds may result in the ability to target cultural and management practices to lessen the impact of certain problem weeds.