

**The Weeds of Mexico website, an inclusive tool.** (Oral Presentation)

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**Introduction**

Mesoamerica and adjoining regions have a long history of agriculture, and have evolved a large number of species adapted to cultivated fields and other disturbed vegetation types. Many of these species are edible, or otherwise useful. Parts of rural populations in Mexico are very much interested in obtaining additional and reliable information on their plants; however, popular guides are few and are rarely available.

**Objectives**

For these reasons we decided to include farmers as one of the targets for the website [www.malezasdemexico.net](http://www.malezasdemexico.net). Other intended users are non-taxonomic professionals such as agronomists, government officials and biology teachers.

**Methods**

The site is online since March 2006 with illustrations, descriptions, other information and pictorial identification help for over 450 species, mainly from the temperate areas of Mexico. Until June, another 250 species - many tropical - will be added. The site is mainly in Spanish, with some bilingual parts (English). Eventually, we hope to include most of the 3000 weedy species reported for Mexico.

**Results**

In this talk we report on the first workshops with farmers, and solicit suggestions from and collaboration by interested economic botanists.

**Conclusion**

The site will hopefully be a pioneer in communication between scientists and interested laypeople.

**Keywords:** interactive flora

**Selected References**

1. <http://www.malezasdemexico.net>

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