

New Book: Pictorial Guide to Common Weeds of Plantations and their Control

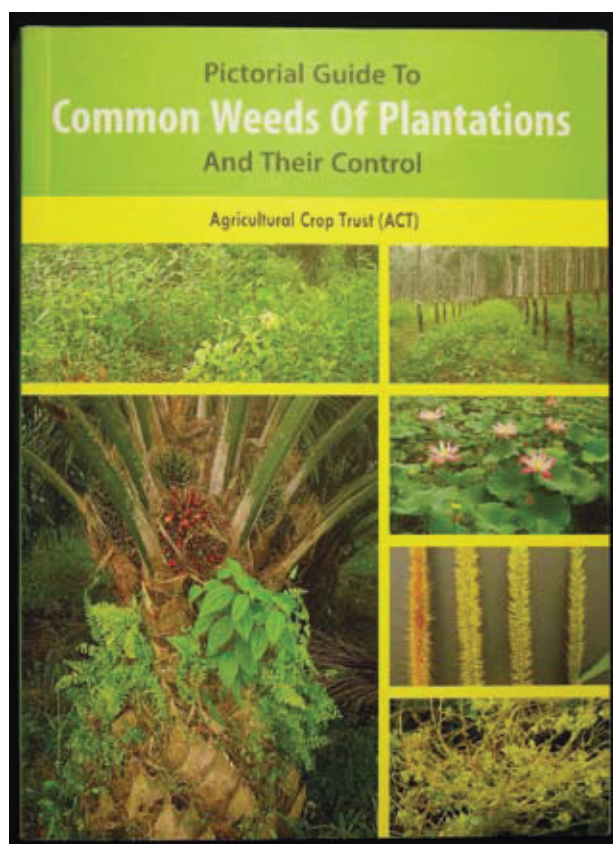
Authors: Chung Gait Fee, Lee Chin Tui, Chiu Sheng Bin and Chee Kheng Hoy. Published by Agricultural Crop Trust, c/o Param Agricultural Soil Surveys, A4-3, Jalan 17/13, 46400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia. Price: RM100

This 353-page paperback book provides a pictorial guide to the weeds found in plantations in Malaysia. Each species is given a one-page treatment that provides the scientific name, synonyms, common English name, Malay name, habitat, and one to five photographs. The photos attempt to show the form, habit and habitat of each species to facilitate identification.

The species are grouped under various criteria. The number of species in each group are as follows:

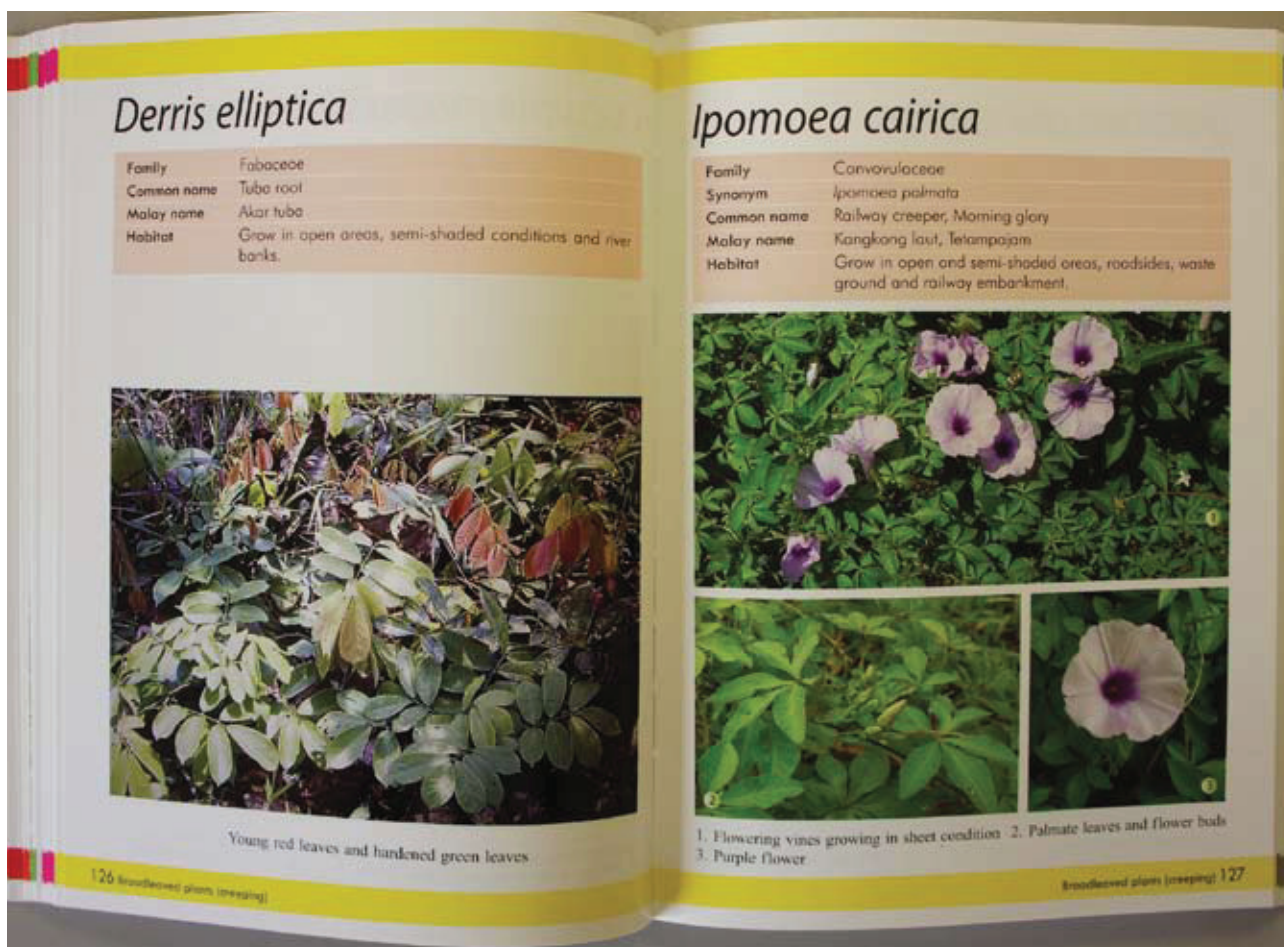
grasses 55,
sedges 19,
broad leafed weeds (non-creeping) 38,
broad leafed weeds (creeping) 37,
legume covers 7,
broadleaved plants (woody) 26,
broadleaved plants (others) 14,
ferns and allies 17,
epiphytes 18,
volunteer plants 6,
parasitic plants 2,
aquatic plants 19

The criteria used in defining the groups are mixed. Grasses, sedges, ferns and fern allies are taxonomic groups. Epiphytes, parasites



and aquatic plants are ecological groups. However some groups are defined by practical convenience from a planter's point of view. From their contents, these groups of convenience may be characterized as follows:

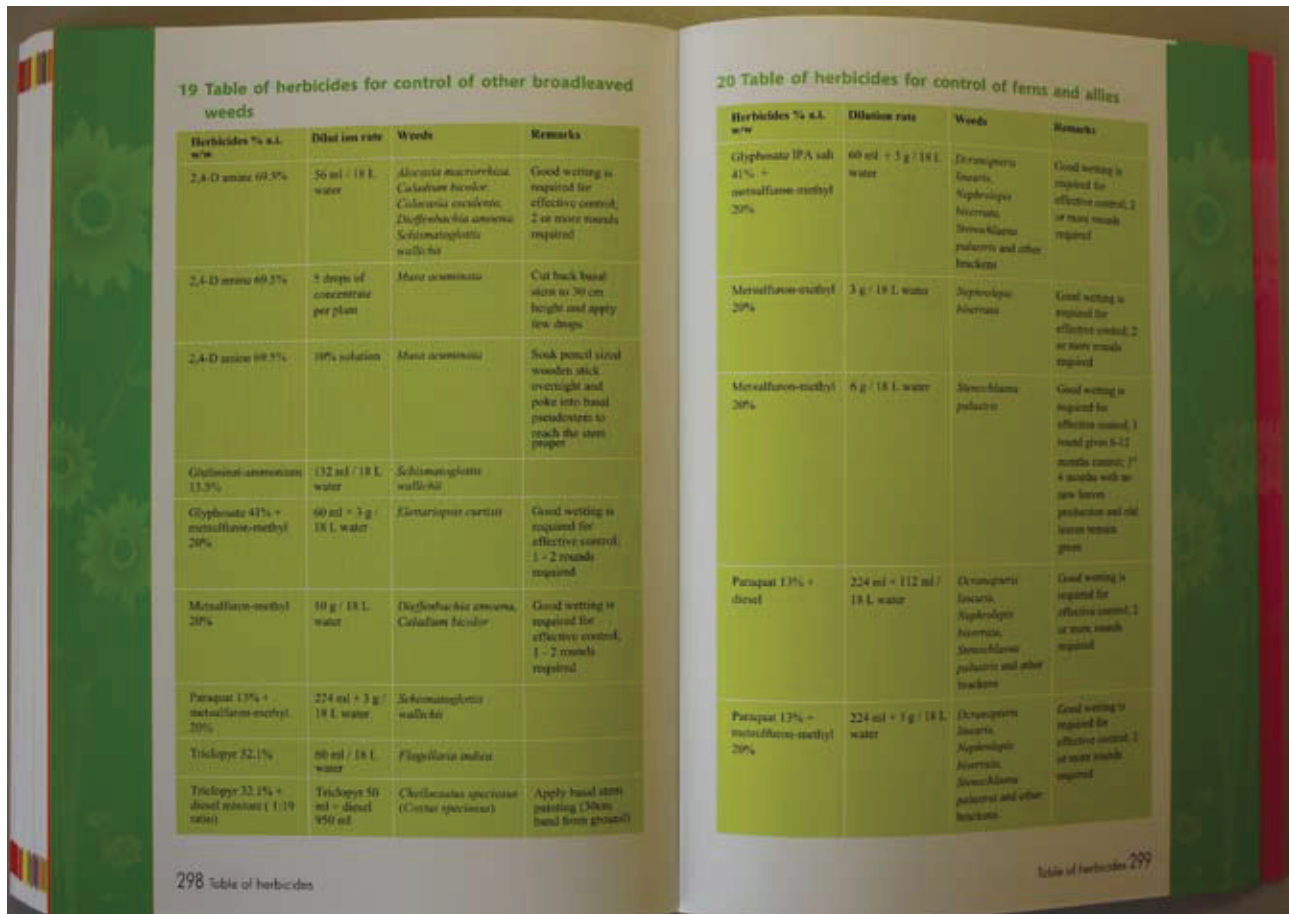
- Broadleaved weeds (not-creeping): herbaceous dicots.
- Broadleaved weeds (creeping): climbers, scramblers and plants that spread by runners.



- Legume covers: creeping legumes planted as ground covers in young plantations, that have to be kept under control otherwise they may behave as weeds and smother the crop plants.
- Broadleafed plants (woody): dicot shrubs and small trees.
- Broadleafed plants (others): monocots other than grasses and sedges, e.g. aroids, palms, gingers.
- Volunteer plants: accidental weeds, e.g. example, rubber seedlings in an oil palm plantation or oil palm seedlings in a rubber plantation.

Some species fall under more than one group and they are repeated where this happens, e.g. *Nephrolepis biserrata* is featured under ‘ferns and allies’, and again under ‘epiphytes’. However, *Pyrrosia piloselloides* is listed only as an epiphyte although it is also a fern. On the whole, this book effectively covers all the plants that one is likely to see in a plantation in Malaysia.

The pictorial guide is followed by an excellent discussion on weed management, including the management of legume cover crops, and a comprehensive guide to commercial herbicides. The indices cover plant names in English, Malay and Chinese.



Plantation management has had a long and productive history in Malaysia and this book provides a simple and practical guide to the best management practices in tropical weed

management. The first print run was sold out almost as soon as it was published. The proceeds go to the Agricultural Crop Trust which is a charity that supports education in agriculture.