

TALKING PLANTS: THE SCIENCE BEHIND GOOD WEED MANAGEMENT

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Understanding how plants can talk provides us with an opportunity to “eaves drop” into their conversation and explore how this exchange of information is affecting plant health. I will illustrate using research examples, how quickly crop plants are able to detect and respond to the presence of neighbouring weeds. I will attempt to prove that crop plants such as corn and soybeans growing in the presence of weeds are in a state of constant communication. This communication results in molecular, physiological and morphological changes that help explain crop yield loss caused by weeds. These results also provide a scientific bases for the importance of early season weed control.

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