

C31-P

WEEDSOFT: USING A DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR REGIONAL IPM IMPLEMENTATION

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WeedSOFT ADVISOR is a Windows-based weed management decision support system developed in Nebraska and adapted to six other North Central states. WeedSOFT ADVISOR provides recommendations for preemergence, postemergence and pre + postemergence treatments in Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Sorghum, Sugarbeets, Alfalfa, and Dry Beans. The ADVISOR model allows each state to customize parameters to fit their specific needs. Extension/research scientists from the partner states have created state-specific databases to account for state-to-state variations in such parameters as soil properties, prevalent weed species, crop/weed management strategies, and herbicide use restrictions. Each state collects feedback from WeedSOFT ADVISOR users to ensure the software meets their weed management needs. State-specific versions of WeedSOFT were distributed in five states in 2002. All seven states will have versions available for the 2003 growing season. Future enhancements to WeedSOFT will include a weed mapping component to spatially track weed problem areas within a field and enable more site-specific treatment of these areas. This regional project is supported by funding from CSREES RAMP # 2001-51101-11100.