

EMERGING WEED PROBLEMS UNDER CHANGING CLIMATIC CONDITION :

A REVIEW

Abstract

Climate is a major force in earth's environmental system, and even minor changes in climate can have complex and serious effects on the environment. Atmospheric CO₂, temperature and precipitation are major important abiotic variables that directly affect weed physiology and growth. Weeds are more genetically diverse than crops, hence show enhanced growth and reproductive stability than crops. Among the C3 and C4 weeds in cropped field, C3 weeds have more response in photosynthesis to increased CO₂ level in atmosphere. The elevated CO₂ under sufficient soil moisture condition will leads the higher C3 weed competitiveness in C4 crops. So weed growth is favoured as CO₂ is increased. Temperature changes resulted in an expansion of weeds, and shifting of weeds. Based on the differences in temperature, the C4 *spp.* able to tolerate high temperature than C3 *spp.* Therefore, C4 weeds benefit more than the C3 crops from temperature increases that accompany elevated CO₂ levels. Due to global warming, weeds expand their range into new areas. Precipitation is also one of the important climate variable that influences the growth and distribution of weeds growth. Even though CO₂ concentration level and temperature rise in future are predictable, amount, distribution, and intensity of rainfall patterns remains much more uncertain. Moisture is a key factor required for weed seed germination, growth and development. Climate change can affect the frequency and intensity of rainfall and result in occurrences of extreme events such as floods and droughts; consequently, weeds adapted to these conditions will have a higher competitive advantage.

Key words: *Climate change, elevated CO₂, Temperature, Precipitation, C3 and C4 weeds*

Introduction

The difficult of climate change is increasingly more receiving attention from scientists, public peoples, and policy makers (Petit *et al.*, 1999; Loss *et al.*, 2011; Seddon *et al.*, 2021). Climate change is now a broadly accepted term, Climate change refers to “long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns” (Robinson and Gross, 2010). The atmospheric CO₂ concentration has risen from about 280 ppm (pre-industrial period) to today's about 390 ppm and it is expected that by the end of 21st century, it will reach to the levels of 600-700 ppm, if current emission trends continue (Leegood, 2002; IPCC, 2022). The carbon dioxide concentration is expected to rise 1.1 to 6.4°C, causing the earth's surface temperature to rise 1.1 to 6.4°C. (Houghton, 2001, IPCC, 2022;). Through global warming, as well as its associated changes in climate such as altered precipitation patterns, wind patterns, sea level rise, and flood and drought more frequently, global CO₂ enrichment is thought to influence the drymatter of weeds and crop yields directly (Zhu *et al.*, 2016; Clements &

DiTommaso, 2022). It has been reported that elevated CO₂ concentration cause an increases in photosynthesis (Kendall *et al.*, 1985; Ghannoum *et al.*, 2000; Dass *et al.*, 2017), decrease in photorespiration and respiration (Ziska, 2000), different crop and weed species differ in their response to elevated CO₂ concentration levels (Poorter, 1993).

The various responses of C₃ and C₄ plants (weeds & crops) to elevated CO₂ and air temperature have important implications on crop/weed competition as most of the weeds are C₄. However, since most crops have C₃ photosynthesis while most weeds have C₄ photosynthesis, weeds are mature and decay as before, and therefore weeds are as ripe as earlier. (Ziska, 2003; Pautasso *et al.*, 2010; Singh *et al.*, 2011). Evidently, there are four major C₄ crops of economic importance (Maize, Pearl millet, Sorghum, and Sugarcane), and many important C₃ weeds (e.g. *Chenopodium album*, *Avena ludoviciana*, *Phalaris minor*, *Eclipta prostrate*, *Ammania baccifera* etc.). CO₂ enrichment generally benefits plants with C₃ photosynthetic pathways more than those with C₄ pathways, however this is reversed with increasing temperatures. (Jinger *et al.*, 2016).

As a result of climate change, weed populations and phenology may change (Patterson, 1995). Many weed species may expand their range and spread to new areas. Literature also suggests that invasive species may become more problematic in changing climate since they respond strongly to elevated CO₂ and climate change compared to other native species (Marambe, B. & Wijesundara, S. 2021).

As well as some weed species causing allergic reactions, skin irritations, or internal poisoning, some weed species have produced a greater amount of plant biomass, pollens, or poisonous compounds in response to the changing climate, particularly to elevated CO₂ levels. (Dukes *et al.*, 2009; Singer *et al.*, 2013). A wider gene pool in weeds, compared to crops, may allow them to adapt to diverse environmental conditions due to their greater sensitivity to temperature increases (Treharne, 1989). Increasing temperature stimulates photosynthetic activity and growth in C₃ and C₄ plants, respectively (Morgan *et al.*, 2001).

Precipitation is another important climate variable that influences the growth and distribution of vegetation. (Lobell and Burke, 2008; Robinson and Gross, 2010). Although CO₂ concentrations and temperature rise in future are predictable, distribution and variation in the intensity of precipitation patterns remains much more uncertain. In order for weed seeds to germinate and establish, moisture is crucial (Skov and Svenning 2004; Bergmann *et al.*, 2010). Floods and droughts can occur due to climate change, and therefore, weeds that

are adapted to these conditions will have an advantage over weeds that are not adapted to these conditions (Rodenburg *et al.*, 2011). Finally, the present reviews covered a weed emergence problem under changing climatic condition. Further investigations and research areas are needed in this concern.

Characteristics of weeds

In this globe totally 46 major crops are there but, over 410 “serious” weed species.

1. Weed plants produces larger number of seeds compare to crops
2. Most of the weed seeds are small in size and contribute enormously to the seed reserves.
3. Weed seeds germinate earlier and their seedlings grow faster than crop seeds.
4. The viability of seeds remains intact, even if they are buried deep in the soil.
5. Weed seeds do not lose their viability for years even under adverse conditions.
6. They flower earlier and mature ahead of the crop they infest.
7. The seeds germinate under varied conditions, but are typically season-bound. The peak period of germination always takes place in certain seasons year after year.
8. Weed seeds possess the phenomenon of dormancy
9. Most of the weeds possess C4 type of photosynthesis, which is an added advantage during moisture stress.
10. They possess extensive root system, which go deeper as well as of creeping type.
11. Quick response to available soil moisture and nutrients.
12. Tolerance to shading effects by the crops at the time of establishment
13. Mimicry: Resembles the crop plants, morphological characters are similar to the crop Plants.
14. There are no geographical boundaries to weed dispersal. Common agents of weed dispersal are wind, water, animals, birds, organic manures, agriculture implements and human beings.

Climate change on weeds

The main parameters for climate change impacts on weeds include increased atmospheric CO₂ levels, temperatures, changed rainfall, more extreme weather, more frequent frosts, changed phenology and changed land use (Patterson, 1995; Ziska, 2016). The rate of response of invasive plants and weeds is expected to be faster than for other plants, including

native species and crops. Additionally, climate change is likely to lead to the emergence of new weed species (Dukes *et al.*, 2009; Singer *et al.*, 2013).

Changes in atmospheric CO₂, temperature, rainfall, and wind will impact the distribution, growth, and physiology of weed species, as well as their predominance in weed and crop communities. These changes will also disrupt the crop-weed balance and encourage weed invasion. (Patterson, 1995; Ramesh *et al.*, 2017; Anwar *et al.*, 2021).

Impact of climate change on weed biology (Ziska, 2000) & (Bradley *et al.*, 2010)

- Weed shifts and spread of invasive species
- Elevated CO₂ and its effects on weeds
- Effect of increased temperature on weeds
- Effect of change in precipitation on weeds
- Other environmental stresses and weed competitiveness.

Table 1: Impact of climate change on risks of invasiveness (Bradley *et al.*, 2010)

Climate change factor	Risks of invasiveness
Elevated CO ₂	Increase
Rising temperature	Might increase or decrease
Changing precipitation regime	Might increase or decrease

Impacts (Reddy, *et al.*, 2010)

1. Increased CO₂: Promotes Photosynthesis, Growth, Lowers evapotranspiration, and Increases water use efficiency
2. With considerable drops in the yields of rival crops, many C3 weeds have demonstrated noticeable growth.
3. Increasing CO₂ levels have a favourable impact on the spread and persistence of invasive species (*Bromus tectorum*).

Weeds response to increasing of CO₂ levels (Elevated atmospheric CO₂)

Weeds have greater genetic diversity than crops. Due to increased efficiency of plant growth, weeds will often show a greater growth response if one of the environment's resources (light, water, nutrients, or carbon dioxide) changes. (Ziska, 2008). The interplay between CO₂ and growth is greatly controlled by the photosynthetic mode of the plant, and some plants (C₄ and CAM), including many grasses and succulents, capture more energy than others (C₃). (Patterson, 1995; Batts *et al.*, 1997; Morison and Lawlor, 1999; (Chauhan *et al.*, 2017).

Many of the weed species have the C₄ photosynthetic pathway. However, this argument does not consider the range of available C₃ and C₄ weeds present in any agronomic environment. Therefore, if a C₄ weed species does not respond, it is likely that a C₃ weed species will (Morison and Lawlor, 1999). Additionally, a lot of farmers are aware that the worst weeds for a particular crop have similar growth patterns or a similar photosynthetic pathway; in fact, they are frequently the same uncultivated or "wild" species, such as red rice and white rice, sorghum, and wild oats. Weed growth is favoured when CO₂ levels rise in all studies of weed/crop competition to date where the photosynthetic pathway is the same. (Carter and Peterson 1983; Ziska, 2003).

The direct physiological effects of elevated CO₂ on photosynthesis and plant growth are well documented. As opposed to plants with C₄ photosynthetic pathways, it is projected that plants with C₃ photosynthetic pathways will gain more from CO₂ enrichment. (Patterson and Flint, 1980). Since most weeds are C₄ plants, crop/weed competition may be significantly impacted by the differences in how C₃ and C₄ plants respond to elevated CO₂. It can therefore be suggested that many weed species will react to rising CO₂ less strongly than crops, which largely use the C₃ photosynthetic pathway. (Zangerl and Bazzaz, 1984; Ziska, 2003; Rogers *et al.*, 2008). To create successful weed management strategies for new species in the context of a changing climate, it is crucial to analyse crop/weed competition in cropping systems.

CO₂ versus Weeds in India

Common weeds species found in India such as *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Digitaria ciliaris*, *Cyperus spp.*, *Echinochloa colona*, *Paspalum orbiculare* and *Setaria glauca* and having C₄ photosynthetic pathway will show smaller response in photosynthesis to increased CO₂ level in atmosphere (Singh *et al.*, 2011).

While some weed species, such as *Agropyron repens*, *Argemone mexicana*, *Chenopodium album*, *Phalaris minor*, *Poa annua*, and *Rumex acetosella*, may exhibit enhanced photosynthesis in response to elevated CO₂ levels in the atmosphere, many of the worst weeds for a given crop share similar growth habits or photosynthetic pathways, such as oats and wild oats, wheat and little seed canary grass (Patterson, 1985; Patterson, 1995; Mishra, 2003; Tang *et al.* 2009; Chandrasena, 2009; Singh *et al.*, 2011).

Table 2: Important C3 and C4 weed species of rice and wheat crops in India (Singh *et al.*, 2011)

Crop	C3 weeds	C4 weeds
Rice	<i>Oryza sativa f. spontanea</i> <i>Scirpus spp.</i> , <i>Monochoria</i> , <i>Eclipta prostrata</i> , <i>Ammania baccifera</i>	<i>Echinochloa spp.</i> , <i>Cyperus spp.</i> , <i>Leptochloa chinensis</i> , <i>Bracharia</i>
Wheat	<i>Chenopodium album</i> , <i>Phalaris minor</i> , <i>Avena fatua</i> , <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> , <i>Canada thistle</i>	<i>Cynadon dactylon</i>

Table 3: Response of C3 and C4 weeds to double atmospheric CO₂ levels (Chandrasena, 2009)

Sn.	C3	Range of response biomass	C4	Range of response biomass
1	<i>Abutilon theophratsii</i>	1.0-1.52	<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>	0.9-1.41
2	<i>Bromus mollis</i>	1.37	<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	0.8-1.17
3	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	1.54	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	1.02
4	<i>Cassia obtusifolia</i>	1.4-1.8	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	1.06-1.6
5	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	1.0-1.6	<i>Echinochloa crusgalli</i>	0.95-1.6
6	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	1.7-2.27	<i>Eleusine indica</i>	1.02-1.8
7	<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	1.48	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	0.56-1.1

Table 4: Shift in weed flora in India (Tang *et al.* 2009)

Crop	Original weed flora	New weed flora
Wheat (first phase)	<i>Chenopodium spp.</i> , <i>Spergula arvensis</i> , <i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	<i>Phalaris minor</i> , <i>Avena fatua</i> , <i>Lolium temulentum</i>

Wheat (Second phase)	<i>Phalaris minor</i> , <i>Avena fatua</i>	<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i> , <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> , <i>Medicago spp.</i> , <i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Rice	<i>Echinochloa spp.</i>	<i>Cyperus iria</i> , <i>Fimbistylis miliacea</i> , <i>Sphenoclea zeylanica</i>
Sugarcane	Broadleaved weeds	Grassy weeds

Rice, wheat, soybeans, and other C3 crops have better photosynthetic rates at raised CO₂, which means they will react to rising CO₂ levels more favourably than C4 weeds like kochia (*K. scoparia*), water hemp (*Amaranthus rudis*), and palmer amaranth (*A. palmeri*). (Elmore and Paul, 1983). The C3 weeds, on the other hand, such as lambsquarters, velvetleaf (*Abutilon theophrasti*), common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), and giant ragweed (*Ambrosia tridactyla*), will react more favourably to elevated CO₂ levels and pose a more serious threat to C4 crops like Corn, Sorghum, Sugarcane, etc. (Tang *et al.* 2009)

C3 weeds in C4 crops

- Increased C3 weed aggressiveness in C4 crops will result from elevated CO₂ under adequate water conditions. At high CO₂ level, C3 weeds significantly decreased sorghum seed production or total aboveground biomass. (Ziska, 2003; Siddiqui *et al.*, 2022).
- C3 weed dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) produced more fertile seeds and larger seedlings under elevated CO₂ (McPeck and Wang, 2007).

CO₂ versus C4 weeds and C4 crops

Ziska and Bunce (1997) compared the effect of elevated CO₂ levels on the growth and biomass production of six C4 weeds (*Amaranthus retroflexus*, *Echinochloa crusgalli*, *Panicum dichotomiflorum* Michaux, *Setaria faberi* Herrm, *Setaria viridis*, *Sorghum halapense*) and four C4 crop species (*Amaranthus hypochondriacus*, *Saccharum officinarum*, *Sorghum bicolor*, and *Zea mays*). In these C4 species, they showed a significant increase in photosynthesis. The largest and smallest increases observed were for *A. retroflexus* (+30%) and *Z. mays* (+5%).

CO₂ versus Soybean and C3 weeds

Ziska (2000) evaluated the outcome of competition between 'Round-up Ready' Soybean (*Glycine max.*) and a C3 weed (lambsquarter, *Chenopodium album*) and a C4 weed

(Redroot pigweed, *Amaranthus retroflexus*), grown at ambient and enhanced CO₂ (ambient + 250 μL L⁻¹). In a weed-free environment, elevated CO₂ resulted in a significant increase in soybean growth and seed yield, compared to the ambient CO₂ condition. However, soybean growth and seed yield were significantly reduced by the presence of either weed species at either level of CO₂. With lambsquarter, at elevated CO₂, In the presence of lambsquarter, soybean seed yield was reduced by 28 to 39% at elevated CO₂; concomitantly, lambsquarter dry weight increased by 65%.

Conversely, for pigweed, soybean seed yield losses diminished with increasing CO₂ from 45 to 30%, with no change in the dry weight of the weed (Ziska, 2000). Climate change may alter yield losses caused by weed competition; weed control will be crucial to achieving any potential increase in soybean yields as a result of climate change. (Chandrasena, 2008).

Table 5: Effect of elevated CO₂ on crop weed interactions (Ziska, 2000)

Crop-weed interaction	Ambient CO ₂	Elevated CO ₂	Percentage change
Above ground biomass			
Soybean (C3)	340±13	448±14	+31.8
+C3 weed	261±18	297±29	+14.0
+C4 weed	204±17	329±27	+61.3
Seed yield			
Soybean (C3)	187±8	228±8	+21.9
+C3 weed	135±9	141±15	+4.4
+C4 weed	103±13	158±14	+53.4

(Total aboveground biomass and seed yield (±standard error) at maturity for soybean (g/m row) at ambient and elevated CO₂ (ambient +250 μl /l CO₂) when grown with or without the presence of a C3 weed (*Chenopodium album*) or a C4 weed (*Amaranthus retroflexus*).

CO₂ versus Redroot pigweed

The elevated CO₂ effect on Redroot pigweed (*Amaranthus retroflexus*) (C4 weed), no change in biomass and yield loss in soybean decreased from 30% to 45% in competition with this weed. Increasing atmospheric CO₂ levels favoured the growth of redroot pigweed in a sorghum field (Ziska *et al.*, 2003; Zhao *et al.*, 2022). *A. retroflexus* is established well under lack of soil moisture with good root system and may takes advantages of elevated CO₂ for increasing the drymatter production of Redroot pigweed (Weller *et al.*, 2021). Redroot pigweed was grown with very well germination, growth, and CO₂ exchange rates at high temperatures, whereas the common lambsquarters grown well under low temperature (Chu, *et al.*, 1978; Egley, 1989; Jabran *et al.*, 2022).

CO₂ versus Weedy rice

Ziska *et al.*, (2010; 2013) found that in case of rice, rice biomass increased with increase in CO₂ from 300 to 400 ppm but did not increase further with increase in CO₂ to 500 ppm, whereas rice yield did not respond to elevated CO₂. Red rice responded linearly in terms of biomass as well as seed production. The elevated CO₂ (700 ± 50 μmol mol⁻¹) had increased the weedy rice germination, growth and biomass (Balbinot *et al.*, 2022)

CO₂ versus Cocklebur

Ziska (2001) & Sreekanth *et al.*, (2023) reported the effects of elevated CO₂ on the growth of grain sorghum (C₄) with and without common cocklebur (*X. strumarium*). C₄ crops may become less productive in the presence of C₃ weeds as future CO₂ levels increase, as biomass and leaf area were higher for the common cocklebur and lower for the sorghum in competitive mixtures. (Kato and Esashi, 1975; Esashi *et al.*, 1988; Anwar *et al.*, 2021). The elevated CO₂ enhances the imbibed cocklebur seeds (Esashi and Kato, 1975; Esashi *et al.*, 1978, Ishizawa *et al.*, 1988; Bailly *et al.*, 2023).

CO₂ versus Ragweed and Quack grass

Increased CO₂ stimulated ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) pollen production several times more than that it stimulates overall growth (Singer *et al.*, 2005). Increasing CO₂ improved the effects of high temperature on quack grass (*Elytrigia repens*) and increased growth and reproduction, according to Tremmel and Patterson (1993). C₃ weeds like lambsquarters or quackgrass are well grown in an elevated CO₂ environment (Tremmel and Patterson, 1994; Ziska *et al.*, 1999; Ziska and Teasdale 2000; Siddiqui *et al.*, 2022).

CO₂ versus Leaf area and Biomass

- In C₃ weeds, leaf area generally responds less than biomass to CO₂ enrichment. (Patterson, 1995)
- However, in C₄ weeds, leaf area and biomass more responses to CO₂ doubling (Fuhrer, 2003).
- C₃ grass species - Increase in tillering and C₄ grass species - Increase in leaf area. Increases in CO₂ and temperature could still favour a C₄ species (Yin and Struik 2008).

Table 6: Effects of doubling CO₂ concentration on biomass and leaf area of C3 weeds (Patterson, 1995)

Range of response (% of growth at ambient)				
Scientific name	Common name	Biomass	Leaf area	No. of reports
<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i> Medicus	Velvet leaf	100-152	87-117	6
<i>Cassia obtusifolia</i> L.	Sicklepod	138-160	104-134	2
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	lambquarters	100-155	122	2
<i>Cirsium arvense</i> (L.) Scop	Canada thistle	121	92	1
<i>Crotalaria spectabilis</i> Roth	Showy crotalaria	167	154	1
<i>Datura stramonium</i> L.	Jimson weed	174-272	146	1
<i>Elytrigia repens</i> (L.) Neveski	Quack grass	164	130	1
<i>Lolium perene</i> L.	Perennial rye grass	134-143	-	2
<i>Phalaris aquatica</i> L.	Harding grass	143	131	1
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	Buckhorn plantain	100-133	133	2
<i>Plantago major</i> L.	Broad leaf plantain	155	-	1
<i>Poa annua</i> L.	Annual blue grass	100	-	1
<i>Poa trivialis</i> L.	Rough stalk blue grass	103	-	1
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> L.	Red sorrel	131	-	1
<i>Rumex crispus</i> L.	Curly dock	118	96	1

Table 7: Effects of doubling CO₂ concentration on biomass and leaf area of C4 weeds (Patterson, 1995)

Range of response (% of growth at ambient)				
Scientific name	Common name	Biomass	Leaf area	No. of reports
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i> L.	Pigweed, red rot	96-141	94-125	4
<i>Andropogon virginicus</i> L.	Broom sedge	81-117	88-129	2
<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L.	Nut sedge, purple	102	92	1
<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i> (Retz.)	Crab grass	106-161	104-166	2
<i>Echinochloa crusgalli</i> (L.) Beav.	Barnyard grass	95-159	95-177	3
<i>Eleusine indica</i> (L.) Gaertn.	Goose grass	102-121	95-132	3
<i>Rottboellia cochinchinensis</i>	Itch grass	121	113	1
<i>Setaria faberi</i>	Foxtail, giant	93-135	101-140	3
<i>Sorghum halepense</i> (L.)	Johnson grass	56-110	99-103	3

CO₂ versus Crops and weeds

Increasing CO₂ levels can favour either the crop or the weed in the same field. Increasing atmospheric CO₂ concentrations favored rice over barnyard grass in the rice-barnyard grass competition (Zeng *et al.*, 2011). Rice biomass growth was limited by nitrogen at elevated CO₂ levels, while barnyard grass biomass growth was unaffected (Zhu *et al.*, 2008; Ziska, 2021).

CO₂ versus Rice and Wheat

The effect of CO₂ enrichment on weed species at the Directorate of Weed Science, Jabalpur revealed that a few weed species such as *Dactyloctenium aegyptium* and *E. colona* responded to elevated CO₂, but *Cyperus rotundus* and *Eleusine indica* did not respond to CO₂ enrichment (Manisankar & Ramesh, 2019). Compared to cultivated rice, wild rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) responded more strongly to rising CO₂ levels, suggesting that it could become a more problematic weed in the future. The growth and biomass accumulation was increased of the C4 weed (*Amaranthus viridis*) under elevated CO₂ (Naidu and Paroha, 2008; Kumar *et al.*, 2023).

Enhanced CO₂ levels may enhance C3 crop competitiveness against C4 weeds, such as rice. Climate change will exacerbate the problems caused by *P. minor* and *Artemisia ludoviciana* in wheat (Kumar *et al.*, 2021). Further, the problem could be aggravated with water scarcity. Due to CO₂ enrichment, the wheat plant could gain biomass against *P. minor*. With CO₂ enrichment, *P. minor* had an advantage over wheat under water stress (Fuhrer, 2003).

CO₂ versus Wild oat

The CO₂ enrichment/elevated CO₂ hastened the seed maturity in *Avena fatua* (wild oat) in wheat. The wild oat seeds shatter well before the crop is harvested; therefore the seeds were matured 13 days earlier compared to the plants cultivated under ambient CO₂ circumstances and enrichment of soil seed bank. At 480 ppm CO₂, wild oat plants produced 44% more seed than at 357 ppm. (O'Donnell and Adkins, 2001; Johannessen *et al.*, 2005; Granger *et al.*, 2012; Momtazi and Miri, 2015; Ziska, *et al.*, 2015; Oraki *et al.*, 2016; Ziska, 2017; Balbinot, 2020)

CO₂ versus Noxious or Invasive weeds

The noxious weeds' growth and development are accelerated by the higher CO₂. (Dukes, 2000; Polley *et al.*, 2003; Weltzin *et al.*, 2003; Salo, 2005). *Cynodon dactylon* in rice and *Convolvulus arvensis* in wheat. These weeds may show a strong response in growth with increase in atmospheric CO₂ (Ziska *et al.*, 2004). *Parthenium hysterophorus* in India had demonstrated tremendous growth in response to increased CO₂. *Amaranthus viridis* (C4) and *Parthenium hysterophorus* (C3) both produced more flowers when the CO₂ level was higher. (Naidu, 2013; Waryszak *et al.*, 2018). Significant morphological and drymatter production alterations were seen in invasive *M. micrantha* and *W. trilobata* as a result of the higher CO₂ levels. (Song *et al.*, 2009). When grown singly or in monoculture, many invasive plants have been proven to respond well to high (CO₂). (Weltzin *et al.*, 2003). Examples of these are species that have invaded North America, such as cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*) and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*, which has also invaded New Zealand and parts of Europe) (Ziska, 2003).

CO₂ versus Worst weed

Many farmers are aware of the comparable growth habits of the worst weeds for a certain crop. The 14 of the worst weeds in the world are classified as C4 plants. For instance: wild oats Little seed canary grass and wheat Wild rice growth is more favourable due to the rising atmospheric CO₂ level (Patterson, 1995; Ziska, 2022).

CO₂ with Temperature

The competitiveness could be enhanced in C3 crop (Rice) relative to a C4 weed (*Echinochloa glabrescens*) with elevated CO₂ alone but simultaneous increases in CO₂ and temperature still favour C4 weed *spp*. The competition outcomes between rice and a C4 weed - *Echinochloa glabrescens* L. were studied at two different CO₂ concentrations (393 and 594 $\mu\text{L L}^{-1}$) under day/night temperatures of 27/21°C and 37/29°C (Anwar *et al.*, 2021). The average above ground biomass (+47%) and seed yield (+55%) of rice increased with increasing CO₂ concentrations at 27/21°C. A higher CO₂ concentration had no significant effect on biomass or yield of the C4 weed.

When grown in mixture, the proportion of rice biomass increased significantly relative to that of the C4 weed in all mixtures at elevated CO₂ indicating increased 'competitiveness' of rice. Although rice competed better with weeds at elevated CO₂ levels on its own, rice's competitive ability was reduced at elevated CO₂ levels and temperatures.

indicating that while rice competed better with weeds at elevated CO₂, it did not produce as much germination or reproductive activity as rice on lower CO₂ levels. (Alberto *et al.*, 1996; Manisankar & Ramesh, 2019).

Temperature versus Weed phenology

Weed phenology and population may vary as a result of climate change. More so than increasing CO₂, the increased temperature had an impact on plant phenological development. *C. album* and *S. viridis* emergence and flowering times were increased by 26 and 35 days, respectively, due to the temperature increase of 4°C. Higher temperatures had a substantial impact on the accumulation of biomass by annual grass species during their reproductive phase as opposed to the vegetative phase (Lee, 2011; March-Salas & Pertierra, 2020).

Weed response to increasing temperature

Temperature increases result from climate change. (Tubiello *et al.*, 2007). One of the main elements affecting the dispersion of weeds is temperature. Weeds move to higher latitudes or higher altitudes as temperatures rise. Plants with a C4 carbon fixation pathway mostly weeds have an advantage over crop plants in high temperatures. Higher temperatures that benefit C4 weeds over C3 crops are anticipated to be followed by increased atmospheric CO₂ levels (Ziska *et al.*, 2019). Under unpredictable rainfall brought on by climate change, a similar shift in weed species composition can also be anticipated. A crop may experience increased environmental stress as a result of a sudden change in the climate, making it more susceptible to insect and disease assault and less weed-competitive.

In addition to impacting crop weed competition, the weather anomalies also cause multiple flushes of weed seed germination, which poses major weed control challenges. In the wheat fields of northwest India, three *P. minor* flushes are not unusual, and they are not controlled by a single herbicide application. Weeds respond more strongly to rising temperatures than crops because they have a larger gene pool, which allows them to adapt to a variety of environmental situations. Normally, weeds will expand their distribution into new places as the mean temperature rises over a prolonged period. (Tubiello *et al.*, 2007).

Invasive plants will spread farther afield as a result of warmer seasonal temperatures and milder winters Ragweed and Kudzu (Garrett, 2012). C4 plants will have a competitive advantage over C3 plants when the temperature rises. Hanzlik and Gerowitt (2012) found that prickly sida (*Sida spinosa*) and sicklepod (*Senna obtusifolia*) were less negatively impacted by rising temperatures than soybean.

Temperature versus *Striga*

The distribution of weed species in a given geographic area is thought to be significantly influenced by the temperature of the atmosphere. There is a wide variety of *Striga* species. *Striga asiatica* is not particularly temperature-sensitive. Temperature changes may not have a direct impact on its dispersion as much as changes in the host crop's geographic range. (Mohamed *et al.*, 2007).

Temperature versus *Parthenium*

Summer time was when *Parthenium* seed germination was found to be more prevalent. According to Nguyen *et al.* (2010), warm temperatures produced the most *Parthenium* seeds, whereas chilly conditions produced the most unfilled seeds (60%) at a maximum rate. After only 50 days of growth in warm, dry conditions, reproduction is possible; in cool, wet conditions, it takes 75 days. Because of the abbreviated life cycle, higher temperatures promote the growth of *Parthenium*, increase canopy size and structure, and speed up population expansion (Singh 2011; Toh *et al.*, 2011).

INDIA

Sing *et al.* (1991) reported that most of the weeds in rice are of C4 type. *Ischaemum rugosum* are more in Tropical areas. *Rumex spinosus* in wheat of North West India has increased.

AUSTRALIA

The Buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) is one of the few weeds in Australia to be extensively assessed for growth response to climate change (growth at 35°C versus 25°C). The warm temperature increases many C4 weeds, such as *Amaranthus retroflexus* L., *Setaria* sp., *Digitaria* sp., *Sorghum halepense* L., *Paspalum dichotomiflorum* (L.) are expected to expand further north side of Australia (Clements and DiTommaso, 2011). *Hieracium aurantiacum* L. (Brinkley and Bomford, 2002).

CALIFORNIA

Sleeper weeds can spread quickly depending on the temperature. In California's higher latitudes, there aren't as many of the extremely aggressive weeds that are currently found in the lower latitudes. With rising temperatures, the Itch grass has been tillering

profusely (Bunce and Ziska 2000). With a 3°C warming trend, the robust grass weed might invade the central Midwest and California (Patterson, 1995).

EUROPEAN

The three significant Central European C4 weeds in maize, *Amaranthus retroflexus*, *Echinochloa crusgalli*, and *Setaria viridis*, have become more prevalent due to warmer weather. The majority of these weeds emerge from early summer to early autumn because they are late germinators (Walther *et al.*, 2002). According to O'Donnell and Adkins (2001), wild oat plants developed more quickly at high temperature 23/19°C (day/night) than at normal temperature 20/16°C.

Weed response to Precipitation

Lantana camara, for example, could expand if rainfall increased in some areas (McFadyen 2008). The drought-tolerant C4 weeds, parasitic weeds that thrive in erratic and low rainfall environments (e.g. *Striga hermonthica*) or temporarily flooded conditions (e.g. *Rhamphicarpa fistulosa*) could benefit. *Striga spp.* problems are also associated with low soil fertility area (Kroschel, 2000). *A. philoxeroides*'s growth response and competitiveness in various plant communities to precipitation variability (Ren *et al.*, 2023).

Under drought conditions, *Abutilon theophrasti* and *Anoda cristata* (L.) became more competitive with cotton (Patterson and Highsmith, 1989). In contrast to water-stressed soybeans, a yield loss caused by *Xanthium strumarium* L. was more pronounced in well-watered soybeans (Mortensen and Coble, 1989). Increased rainfall made *Cirsium arvense* more of a threat to wheat yield and growth (Donald and Khan, 1992). Under water stress, *Amaranthus spinosus* and *Leptochloa chinensis* (L) flourished and generated a sizable number of tillers and branches.

Annual weeds that may withstand drought conditions include cheat grass and Yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) (Vollmer and Vollmer, 2006). While yellow star thistle competes with native plants by growing deeper roots, cheat grass completes its life cycle based on the amount of moisture that is available (Hatfield *et al.*, 2011). Dry soil and drought conditions increase the lifetime of the weed seed bank.

Weed response to flooding

The rice plants are shielded against C4 weeds by submersion. On the other hand, C4 weeds pose a serious threat to highland rice and rainfed lowland rice with little precipitation. In both puddled and dry seeded rice, alternating wetting and drying may promote the growth of weeds like *Livistona chinensis*, *Eleusine indica*, and *Eleusine prostrata*. According to Rodenburg *et al.* (2010), flooding occurrences boost (increase growth) *Rhamphicarpa fistulosa*, Willows (*Salix* spp.), Tamarisk (*Tamarix aphylla*), and Tamarisk (*Tamarix aphylla*).

Weed response to wind

The increasing CO₂ levels may increase the dispersal of weed seeds by wind either increasing the height of the weed plant or by increasing the plant size. Wind dispersed invasive weed species are *Cirsium arvense*, *Sonchus arvensis* L., *Sonchus oleraceus* L., and *Carduus nutans* L (Ziska and Dukes 2011).

Weed response to Fire

Under severe weather, *Andropogon gayanus*, or *Gamba grass*, can catch fire. Extreme weather frequently affects the incidence and severity of fires, which are frequent extreme events in Australia.

Climate change: Crop-weed interactions

Depending on factors like soil, temperature, precipitation, and others, interactions between crops and weeds vary greatly among different climate zones.

- A. C3 crop competing with both C3 and C4 weeds where C3 weeds are dominant, whereas in another situation C4 weeds are dominant (Bunce and Ziska, 2000).
- B. C4 crop competing with both C3 and C4 weeds where C3 weeds are dominant, whereas in another situation C4 weeds are dominant.

Table 8: Crop/weed competition outcome at elevated CO₂ conditions (Bunce and Ziska 2000)

Weed species	Crop	Favoured under elevated CO ₂	References
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i> (C4)	Soybean (C3)	Crop	(Ziska, 2000)
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i> (C4)	Sorghum (C4)	Weed	(Ziska, 2003)

<i>Chenopodium album</i> (C3)	Soybean (C3)	Weed	(Ziska, 2000)
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> (C3)	Lucern (C3)	Weed	(Bunce, 1995)
<i>Albutilon theophrasti</i> (C3)	Sorghum (C4)	Weed	(Ziska, 2003)
<i>Taraxacum and Plantago</i> (C3)	Grasses (C3)	Weed	(Potvin and Vasseur, 1997)
Red rice (C3)	Rice (C3)	Weed	(Ziska <i>et al.</i> , 2010)
<i>Echinochloa glabrescens</i> (C4)	Rice (C3)	Weed	(Alberto <i>et al.</i> 1996)

Weed management under climate change

- Continue current control options
- Integrated Weed Management (IWM)
- Use weed control methods are suitable for current extreme events.
- Develop new weed control methods adapted for climate change.

Climate change on weed management

Herbicide Efficacy

I. Carbon Dioxide and Temperature

Both foliar and soil applied herbicides can have their effectiveness affected by decreased stomatal conductance. Changes in temperature and CO₂ levels may modify transpiration, the quantity of leaf stomata, or the thickness of the leaf, which may impact how well herbicides are absorbed and transported.

II. Relative Humidity

Relative humidity may influence the efficacy of foliar-applied herbicides through interactions between the herbicide droplet, leaf cuticle, and availability of water (Devine *et al.*, 1993).

III. Wind

Wind might not have as much of an impact on how well a pesticide works. However, windy conditions can hinder surface application and cause spray drift, which decreases the effectiveness of spray application. Wind dispersed invasive weed that lives in agricultural fields and uncivilised areas (Bastida *et al.*, 2021).

IV. Rainfall

Increased rainfall intensity and frequency will have a negative impact on the uptake, retention, and action of herbicides applied to the soil.

Conclusion

Global climate change factors have serious implications for not only crop and weed growth and also herbicide performance and the effectiveness of chemical weed management. Because of their increased inter-specific genetic variety and physiological adaptability, weeds often exhibit stronger survival strategies under changing climatic conditions. Weed biology is anticipated to be significantly impacted by changes in temperature and carbon dioxide, both directly (CO₂ stimulation of weed growth) and indirectly (climatic variability). Despite the significance of weed biology for agriculture and the environment, little is understood about how these climate changes affect invasive or agronomic weeds reproductive success and the potential repercussions for their management. Under changing climatic conditions, it has been demonstrated in several research that weeds and crops both react to climate change scenarios. Under conditions of elevated CO₂, weeds tend to follow the C3 pathway (C3 weeds), whereas under conditions of increased temperature, they may follow the C4 pathway (C4 weeds). As a result, managing and controlling weeds in agriculture will be a significant issue in future. Therefore, more research on weeds and weed management is required.

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