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Occurrence of Common Weeds in Immature Plantings of Oil Palm Plantations in Malaysia

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A survey was conducted by the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) to gain information on noxious weeds in oil palm plantations. The survey was conducted through questionnaires distributed to a total of 1412 oil palm estates with immature plantings throughout Malaysia between August 2008 and April 2009. Eleusine indica was found to be the most occurred grass (82.2%) in immature oil palm plantations followed by Imperata cylindrica (81.2%), Ischaemum muticum (71.8%) and Pennisetum polystachion (67.1%). The most found broadleaves in oil palm plantations were Mikania micrantha (77.2%), followed by Clidemia hirta (74.6%), Asystasia gangetica (74.2%), Melastoma malabathricum (72%), Chromolaena odorata (67.7%), Borreria latifolia (65.6%), Hedyotis verticillata (64.3%), Mimosa pudica (59.6%), Ageratum conyzoides (58.5%) and Lantana camara (55%). Sedges and ferns were found in 51 per cent and 74 per cent of the plantations. The new weeds emerging from uncollected oil palm loose fruits, volunteer oil palm seedlings (VOPS) was reported to be found in 64 per cent of the oil palm plantations.

Keywords: *Weeds, oil palm plantation.*