New Book
Efficient Weed Management to Enhance Rubber Production

Authors: Chee Yan Kuan & Chung Gait Fee

This well-illustrated book serves both as a guide to weed management and to identification of weeds in the rubber plantations in Malaysia. Chee was a scientist at the Rubber Research Institute while Chung worked for an estate company. Their interest in weed management brought them together to produce this valuable book on current practices of weed management in the country.

This book provides a comprehensive account of weed species and the authors did well to separate beneficial and acceptable ground covers from noxious weeds. Noxious weeds suppress...
The growth of rubber, interfere with agronomic practices, obstruct tapping and reduce yield but ground covers could be beneficial.

The book is arranged in a user-friendly manner and starts with an account of the effects of weeds on the establishment of rubber. For those keen on identifying the weeds in their rubber plantations, the authors devoted a large section on classification of plant species with additional information on weed biology and ecology. The other chapters are focused on weed science research and management.

The role of biological control is limited to two pages. More attention could have been given to the possible role of some cover crops such as *Mucuna* sp. to suppress weeds by allelopathic actions. In some cases, cover crops might provide a supportive environment for the biological control agents that help to protect rubber plants from pest infestation. It may also be possible to screen for cover crops to manage nematodes and other pests.