

THE WEED EXPO

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Mother Nature went shopping at the Weed Expo.
She had new niches she was trying to fill.
And with all these genetically modified crops,
Starting new infestations was a real test of skill.

A growing method of organic weed control,
Had the poor lady up against the wall.
Because the native tarweeds she tried to fill in with,
Are now covered with a new shopping mall.

She checked out the Compositae Pavilion.
Their booth is usually the largest at every show.
She was a firm believer in wind-blown dispersion,
With an unhardened seed that is ready to grow.

The 2006 groundsel looked good this year.
She needed a winter annual to infest dormant hay.
And with toxic alkaloids and wind-borne seed,
It was guaranteed to cause any good farmer dismay.

She walked past the Shady Solanaceae's booth.
How can you trust their trade-show claims?
Harry and Black were peddling the same old genetics,
Riding on the shirttails of the family name.

She was impressed with the new puncture vine.
The hardened spine could now puncture a four-ply tire.
And they added a year's dormancy to the seed.
She could start infestations that were bound to inspire.

The "What's New" Booth was really popular this year.
Everyone is claiming resistance to glyphosate salt.
And with a few shaky trials to back their claims,
It just a new "snake oil", who could find them at fault.

She's been trying to promote new native weeds,
Because the foreign invasives were getting such bad press.
Mother Nature is concerned about her public image.
She didn't want any tabloid headlines causing her distress.

But *Conyza* was the talk of the Weed Expo.
Better known by its street name as "Marestail".
Was it true resistance or just good niche work.
This annual is taking the Valley on a grand scale.

So the farmers and ranchers have to understand.
A lady can't make a fashion statement with bare ground.
Mother Nature dresses to make an impression,
And will use any designer that leaves them spellbound.