

Contents



<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> ix
Introduction to the Weedy Traits of the English Language	1
Our Lexical Weeds: the World of Jargon, Slang and Euphemism	14
More Lexical Weeds: Word Origins and Meaning Shifts	49
Our Grammatical Weeds	84
Weeds in Our Sounds and Spelling	120
The Truly Nasty Weeds of the English Language?	165
W(h)ither Our Weeds?	182
<i>Bibliography</i>	186
<i>List of Interesting Words</i>	191