

2007 WSSA Committee Report to Members Summary for 2007 and Action Plan for 2008

Committee Code and Name:

Herbicides for Minor Uses (E10)

Committee Chair:

Russell W. Wallace, Texas AgriLife Extension Service (rwwallace@ag.tamu.edu)

Board Coordinator:

Vanelle Peterson

Committee Members Rotating Off:

3 members (R. Boydston, J. Masiunas, R. Bellinder) rotating off committee in 2008 and 2 left for a non-weed science positions. We will possibly need 3 renewals and 2 new replacements.

Appropriate Replacements:

Committee Goals for 2007:

- To continue to discuss and coordinate on important issues related to minor crops and herbicide registration issues, as well as potential sustainable production.

Summary of Progress for 2007:

- In general, the members of the HMUC discussed current and selective needs for herbicides in vegetable and other minor crops. Topics of discussion included the following:
 - The potential use and support for a registration of bentazon on direct-seeded onions (Zandstra, MI). Multiple states coordinated efforts to evaluate.
 - Lynn Brandenberger put together a report on the "Screening New Herbicides for Leafy Greens" which summarized reports from twelve university researchers conducting trials in chenopod (spinach, beet greens and Swiss chard) crops, Brassica (kale, turnips, mustard and collard greens) crops, herbs (basil, cilantro and dill), and lettuce crops. Report was sent to USDA IR-4 Project as well as to all interested researchers.
 - Fred Salzman discussed the use of a sample label with indemnification language as a format for minor uses.
 - Reflex received a label for use in processing snap beans recently but is limited to areas east of Highway 77 in Texas. Comparisons were made with UltraBlazer and evaluated during 2007 by NC (Batts) and TX (Wallace). Syngenta is currently working on a 24(c) label for Texas in areas west of Highway 77.
 - Discussed whether there were any future concerns for herbicide labeling in vegetable crops due to the increased use of biotechnology in seed production. Will these have an impact on current or future vegetable labels? There is minimal spending by the agricultural industry on new herbicide discovery and research, which limits potential vegetable labels. As a result, much of the current minor crop research is limited to new uses with older chemistries.
 - Discussed IR-4 Project funding issues for crop tolerance and efficacy research.

- Although unable to attend at the last meeting, Marija Arsenovic (IR-4 Project) was planning on discussing new initiative with “international herbicide efficacy and crop safety data sharing”. Delayed discussion until committee meets in February.
- Committee meeting at IR-4 Food Use Workshop is large (80 attendees) and can be difficult to get organized.

Recommendations for Board/Society Action:

- None at this time.

Committee Goals for 2008:

- No committee goals were discussed at the previous meeting; however, goals for 2008 will be requested and discussed at the meeting in February.

Plan of Action for 2008:

- Continue to press for needs of herbicide registrations for minor use crops including leafy greens, herbs and lettuce crops.
- Continue to create a network of collaborating university and agri-industry researchers and development reps to conduct trials throughout the US to improve potential for herbicide registrations.

Resources needed for 2008:

Finances: None

Membership involvement (person-hours):