

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

**Committee Code and Name:** W13 Weed Alert Committee

**Committee Chair:** Al Tasker 2010-NE

**Board Coordinator:** Toni DiTommaso

**Committee Members Rotating Off:**  
Anderson, L.W.J. 2008-W

**Appropriate Replacements:**  
Anderson, L.W.J. 2013-W

**Committee Goals for 2007** (what did the committee plan to accomplish in 2007):

Respond to new weed detections and evaluate candidate FNWs.  
Develop FNW factsheets and/or publicity pieces.

### **Summary of Progress for 2007:**

What was accomplished toward the goals set by the committee?

New *Orobanche minor* and *O. ramosa* finds in VA were responded to.

In FY 2007 the APHIS PPQ program evaluated as potential FNW the following species.

*Oplismenus hirtellus ssp. undulatifolius* (Wavy leafed basket grass). An NPAG assessment was done for new detections in Maryland. The known distribution of this plant in the conterminous United States is thought to be limited to two sites in Maryland. The NPAG recommended that a weed risk assessment be conducted on the taxa to determine whether it should be a candidate for federal noxious weed listing, since it appears that a near relative may have been sold in the nursery trade.

*Hieracium glomeratum* (Queen-devil or Yellowdevil hawkweed) in Oregon. It is a new species of hawkweed to the U.S. The NPAG group recommended a full weed risk assessment be conducted on the species, and further, recommended evaluation of other species of *Hieracium* that are not in the United States or are of limited distribution, and under official control.

*Cayratia japonica* was referred for a full risk assessment. It is currently found in at least 4 states, and because of this distribution was determined to not meet FNW criteria unless LA reverses a previous policy of not establishing an official program.

*Geranium lucidum* (Shining geranium) recently recognized as an invasive weed in natural areas in Oregon, Washington and California; was determined to have been in U.S. since 1935, and does not appear to be having any significant economic impacts. Infested states had no interest in establishing official control measures.

*Brachypodium sylvaticum* (Slender false brome). Because it was first collected in Oregon 1939 it was concluded to be not appropriate for New Pest status without further evaluation. It is currently in the queue for PRA drafting for regulatory decision.

*Syngonium podophyllum* (Arrowhead Vine, American Evergreen). NPAG recommended that arrowhead vine should not be additionally assessed because it has been in the United States nursery trade for decades. Also, it is well established in moist, tropical regions of the United States such as Florida and Hawaii

Pest risk assessments have been completed, and a regulatory workplan is currently in progress which includes proposing the adding to the Federal Noxious Weed list (7 CFR 360.200) and seed list 7 CFR 361.6(a)(1) of the following species:

*Onopordum acaulon*  
*Onopordum illyricum*  
*Euphorbia terracina*  
*Ageratina riparia*  
*Arctotheca calendula*  
*Acacia nilotica*  
*Inula britannica*

*Onopordum acaulon* (Stemless thistle). *Onopordum* spp. were introduced into Australia as ornamentals and agricultural commodity contaminants. There appears to be a high likelihood of introduction into the U.S. This species ranges from annual to biennial. It is adapted to climates similar to those in the southeastern U.S., also TX, CA and AZ. It occurs as a weed of roadsides, wastelands, cultivated land and pastures, and reduces carrying capacity of pasture. Stock eating the plant suffer impaction and liver damage. Seeds are long-lived in soil. Assessment ranking is medium consequences of introduction; high likelihood of introduction, with a medium-high overall risk rating. It is not known to occur in the U.S.

*Onopordum illyricum* (Illyrian thistle). Illyrian thistle is naturalized in Australia. In California, limited populations are found in natural areas, disturbed sites, roadsides, fields; especially sites with fertile soils. There is potential for introduction in other areas in the U.S. The plant is an annual to biennial. It is difficult to control, with a potential to infest pastures, reducing carrying capacity, and creating physical barriers to stock and wildlife. Assessment ranking is medium consequences of introduction; high likelihood of introduction with medium-high overall risk rating. The plant is currently regulated as a Class A Noxious Weed within CA, the only infested state.

*Euphorbia terracina* (False caper). In Western Australia, False caper is a serious weed of grazing land. It competes with crops and pasture plants, is avoided by stock and can be toxic to animals. An aggressive perennial, it forms dense stands that inhibit the growth of native plants. Assessment ranking is medium likelihood of intro; high consequences of intro, with a medium-high overall pest risk potential. False caper is of limited distribution in CA, and subject to control efforts there, in the "Q" category = "Temporary "A" pending permanent rating.

*Ageratina riparia* (Mistflower). An erect or sprawling herb to subshrub, Mistflower colonies increase in density and size by spreading horizontally and rooting at the nodes. The plant thrives in misty, upland pastures and mountainous areas with high rainfall. Leaf litter is allelopathic. It is a serious weed in Africa, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica, Hawaii, and Madagascar. The native range is in Mexico, with the center of origin the mountainous coffee growing zone of Vera Cruz. Mistflower has been introduced as an ornamental and as an agricultural contaminant, and is both an agricultural and environmental weed. In Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, the weed competes with native plants and occupies disturbed areas. It is likely to establish in Florida, Texas, and moist habitats within the warm southeast. Assessment ranking is medium consequences of intro; high likelihood of intro, with medium-high overall pest risk potential. It is of limited distribution in HI, which lists Mistflower as a noxious weed for eradication and control purposes.

*Arctotheca calendula* (Capeweed). **Initiating event:** Identified in 2001 as a target for risk assessment when PPQ officers detected achenes of this species in oats imported from Australia entering the U.S. for animal consumption. Capeweed is a stemless or short-stemmed, spreading, rosette-forming annual or perennial in areas with frost-free climate. The perennial forms produce stolons, which root at the nodes and are often vigorous. Annual in its native range and Southern Australia, it is perennial in mild frost-free climates. A weed of disturbed, urban, and coastal habitats, it prefers sunny locations on sandy, well-drained soil. Capeweed is capable of infesting turf and pasture, competing with many kinds of crops, causing allergies and dermatitis in sensitive people, and negatively affecting stock production, with likely impacts to both agriculture and the environment. Assessment ranking is high consequences of intro; high likelihood of intro, with high overall pest risk potential. A sterile, vegetatively reproducing yellow-flowered race is not currently regulated in CA, but is noted by some to escape from cultivation. The invasive populations in CA are a purple-flowered, seed-producing type, which is listed as a category A weed.

*Acacia nilotica* (Prickly acacia). Prickly acacia is a perennial non-climbing shrub or tree, usually 2.5 to 15 meters high. Leaves are feathery with bright yellow flowers occurring in round heads; straight stipular spines are often

slightly deflexed, and dark indehiscent pods are compressed over the seeds. Prickly acacia occurs in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and possibly in Hawaii. It may be cultivated in other States, as it is offered for sale by at least three U.S. nurseries. Predicted range Hawaii, Florida, Texas and California as well as the coastal southeast..A serious weed in South Africa and Australia, Prickly acacia aggressively replaces grasslands with thorny thickets. Pathways into the U.S. are ornamental seed shipments, sale of seeds for medicinal purposes and intentional importation in passenger baggage. Seedlings and young trees are protected from grazing by thorns; it has long distance dispersal mechanisms allowing uncontrolled spread: large seed production; long-lived seeds; young plants growing rapidly, with tolerance to grazing, drought, fire and salinity. Assessment ranking is medium consequences of intro; high likelihood of intro, with a medium-high overall risk potential.

*Inula britannica* (British yellowhead). **Initiating event:** In 1990 Michigan detected British yellowhead in Hosta nurseries, MI restricted the movement, distribution and sale of infested hostas. In 1994, the Netherlands placed *Inula* on their noxious weed list (zero tolerance) for exports. The native distribution is in Europe & temperate Asia. British yellowhead prefers wet habitats: river and stream margins, marshes, ditches, wet grassland, and wet woods. The New Pest Advisory Group (NPAG) Assessment concluded: "medium consequences of introduction, and a high likelihood of introduction, for a medium/high risk potential."

Factcard printed by APHIS on Benghal dayflower (*Commelina benghalensis*)

Factcards drafted by a summer intern on:  
*Ageratina adenophora* (Crofton weed)  
*Asphodelus fistulosus* (Onionweed)  
*Crupina vulgaris* (Common crupina)  
*Galega officinalis* (Goatsrue)

Poster developed for *Orobanche ramosa* (Branched broomrape)

**What was the membership/committee involvement in committee activities?**

**If funds were requested, how much was requested and how much was actually spent?**

NA

**What was the impact of the committee activities/accomplishments on any or all of the following: membership, publication, policy, legislation, and/or education?**

**What is the current state of committee/project activity and what is needed to further the goals of the committee/project?**

**Recommendations for Board/Society Action:**

**Committee Goals for 2008:**

Respond to new weed detections and evaluate candidate FNWs.  
Develop FNW factsheets and/or publicity pieces.

**Plan of Action for 2008:**

Provide activity reports to committee chair.

**Resources needed for 2008:**

Finances:

Membership involvement (person-hours):