

2009 WSSA Committee Report to Members Summary for 2009 and Action Plan for 2010

Committee Code and Name: W13 Weed Alert Committee
Tue Feb 9, 2010 7:30-9:30 AM Tower Court B

Committee Chair: **Committee Chair:** Alan V. Tasker 2010-NE

Board Coordinator: Sean Askew

Committee Members Rotating Off:
None in 2009

Appropriate Replacements:

2009 Summary of Activities

What were the committee's goals for 2009?

- Develop new factsheets and/or publicity pieces for Federal Noxious Weeds (FNW)
- Respond to new weed detections & direct detections to evaluation for FNW status
- Develop various outreach and educational projects regarding weed programs, including support of educational programs through FICMNEW agencies and non-federal stakeholders.
- Cooperate with E4 committee (Federal Noxious and Invasive Weeds Committee) on projects of joint interest, including factsheets from the APHIS/WSSA Project "Creation of a Prioritization Model to Identify Weeds of Global Significance"

List the committee's accomplishments in 2009:

- Cooperated with E4 Committee: Fourteen invasive plant species fact sheets, stressing potential candidates for FNW status, were added to the WSSA webpage in 2008; an additional 26 fact sheets have been developed, reviewed by the committee, and sent to the chair of the website committee for inclusion on the WSSA webpage. Most will be added by APHIS to the new—soon to be established—Not Allowed Pending Pest Risk Assessment category of Q-37.
- A total of 73 FNW fact sheets (52 Terrestrial FNW fact sheets (including 7 pending taxa & 5 *Moraea*), 16 Aquatic/Wetland FNW fact sheets, & 5 parasitic FNW fact sheets) were drafted by an APHIS intern. A few more are currently in draft. These will be posted on the APHIS Weed website when made final.
- Brochure of 40 Common Aquatic/Wetland Roadside Invasive Plants, issued by U.S. Dept of Transportation. Includes 8 FNWs.
- **Q-37.** Cooperated with APHIS Plant Protection & Quarantine, Plant Health Programs in development of a proposed rule revising 7 CFR 319.37 (Q-37) to establish a new category of plants Not Allowed Import Pending Pest Risk Assessment.
- **Revision & validation of Plant Risk Assessment (PRA) system:** PPQ Center for Plant Health Science & Technology, Pest Epidemiology & Risk Assessment Lab (CPHST PERAL) has now completed assessments on 130 species of known U.S. non-invaders, minor-invaders, and major invaders using our revised draft PRA system. They expect to finish assessing 200 species by around the end of March. Statistical analysis will follow. Results from the APHIS model, which is similar to

the Aussie system, indicate that it continues to separate major-invaders from non-invaders.

- **Witchweed Program.** APHIS PPQ is exploring having a celebration in South Carolina to recognize the release of the last quarantined acres for Witchweed at the end of the FY09 season. This is a significant milestone for a program which started about 1957 with 82,426 acres infested in South Carolina (nearly a half million acres infested in North and South Carolina together). North Carolina acreage currently quarantined is now 2135 acres.

Candidate FNW evaluation & listing:

- **Lygodium:** APHIS issued a Federal Import Quarantine Order (May 30, 2008) to prevent the importation of *Lygodium microphyllum* (Old World Climbing Fern) and *L. flexuosum* (Maidenhair Creeper). The restrictions apply to any parts capable of propagation, including spores and leaves (fronds) of these climbing fern species. An interim rule [Docket No. APHIS-2008-0097] Vol. 74, No. 200 p 53397] was published to officially add the Lygodium spp. to the Federal Noxious Weed regulated list. A draft final rule is pending; for details see:
<http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#searchResults?Ne=11+8+8053+8098+8074+8066+8084+1&Ntt=%255bDocket+No.+APHIS-2008-0097%255d&Ntk=All&Ntx=mode+matchall&N=0> Other Lygodium spp. remain in review pending further data with supporting evidence of invasiveness, or in the case of *L. japonicum* clear evidence of desire for official programs in the states infested.
- **7 CFR 360 Revision:** Proposed rule [Docket No. APHIS-2007-0146] published with PRAs. Final rule pending.
<http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#docketDetail?R=APHIS-2007-0146>
 - 7 new species proposed for regulated status. Weeds to be regulated: *Acacia nilotica*, *Ageratina riparia*, *Arctotheca calendula*, *Euphorbia terracina* *Inula britannica*, *Onopordum acaulon*, *O. illyricum*.
 - Add definitions for terms used in the regulations and replace references to the Federal Noxious Weed Act with references to the Plant Protection Act (which superseded it);
 - Add explanatory text to clarify the listing of noxious weeds in §360.200;
 - Provide additional detail about the requirements for permits to move noxious weeds in §360.300;
 - Amend the regulations to require heat treatment for *Guizotia abyssinica* (niger) seed, as currently required in §319.37-6;
 - Add a section to provide information about the process for petitioning to add or remove a taxon from the noxious weed list;
 - Update or correct the taxonomic designations for several currently listed noxious weeds:
 - In §360.200, we are proposing to change the designation of *Caulerpa taxifolia* to add the author's name and a common name and to clarify that only the Mediterranean strain is regulated as a noxious weed. The new entry would thus read: "*Caulerpa taxifolia* (Vahl) C. Agardh, Mediterranean strain (killer algae)." We would remove the entry for *C. taxifolia* from the list of noxious weed seeds with no tolerances

applicable to their introduction in §361.6(a)(1), since a marine alga would not be found in seed shipments.

- The list of parasitic noxious weeds in §360.200(b) contains an entry for *Cuscuta* spp. but lists exceptions for species within that genus that are native to or widespread in the United States. Three of the species listed as exceptions under *Cuscuta* spp.; *C. jepsonii*, *C. occidentalis*, and *C. nevadensis*, have been determined to be synonyms of three other species listed as exceptions—respectively, *C. indecora*, *C. californica*, and *C. veatchii*. (*C. veatchii* is currently listed in the regulations as *C. vetchii*; we would correct that error.) Accordingly, we would remove *C. jepsonii*, *C. occidentalis*, and *C. nevadensis* from the list of exceptions under *Cuscuta* spp. in §360.200(b).
 - The names listed in the regulations for two species listed in §360.200(c), the list of terrestrial noxious weeds, and §361.6(a)(1) are not the currently accepted botanical names. Accordingly, we would replace the entry for *Digitaria scalarum* with an entry for *D. abyssinica* in §360.200(c) and replace the entry for *Digitaria abyssinica* (= *D. scalarum*) in §361.6(a)(1) with an entry that simply refers to *D. abyssinica*. In both §§360.200(c) and 361.6(a)(1), we would replace the entry for *Mimosa invisa* with an entry for *M. diplotricha*.
 - Both §§360.200(c) and 361.6(a)(1) contain entries for *Homeria* spp. However, this genus, and several other genera from the family Iridaceae, have been reclassified and transferred to the large genus *Moraea*. The PRA prepared to help evaluate whether we should add *Homeria* spp. to the noxious weed list considered specific species within the genus *Homeria*. These species are now classified as *Moraea collina*, *M. flaccida*, *M. miniata*, *M. ochroleuca*, and *M. pallida*. Accordingly, we would update the regulations by removing the entry for *Homeria* spp. from both §§360.200(c) and 361.6(a)(1) and adding entries for *M. collina*, *M. flaccida*, *M. miniata*, *M. ochroleuca*, and *M. pallida* in its place.
- **Assessments/New detections**
 - Clover broomrape (*Orobancha minor*) detection in Tennessee. Program underway.
 - Branched broomrape (*Orobancha ramose*) detection in California. Program underway.
 - New Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) detection in Maine. Survey underway.
 - *Mikania micrantha* Detection in FL. Survey underway.
 - Confirmation by PPQ National Mycologist, Joe Bischoff, of *Septoria mikania-micranthae* R.W. Barreto (Hyphomycetes), a fungal pathogen found on *Mikania micrantha*, in Homestead, Dade County, Florida. This is a new US record. The disease was initially identified by Robert Leahy, plant pathologist with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry. It was found on the Federal Noxious Weed, *Mikania micrantha*, which was only recently detected in Florida and confirmed by USDA-APHIS on 12/08/2009. The pathogen is known from South America

and appears to be specific for this host. There is little information in the literature about the organism.

- *Alpinia modesta* not listed by PLANTS or BONAP. Pending evaluation or NAPPRA.
 - *Casuarina equisetifolia* subsp. *equisetifolia* (ironwood or Australian pine). PLANTS lists in FL, HI, PR, VI; BONAP AL, AZ, FL, & TX. Doesn't appear to be regulated by any of these except FL. Unlikely to regulate.
 - *Hedychium gardnerianum* (wild ginger) Listed by PLANTS & BONAP as in HI only. Pending evaluation or NAPPRA.
 - *Luziola subintegra* in Florida. Kunzer, John M. and Michael J. Bodle 2008 J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas 2(1): 633 – 636. BONAP FL only. TX? FL appears to be attempting to eradicate. Pending evaluation or NAPPRA.
 - *Nassella tenuissima* [California calls it noxious]. It is native to North America, and is being grown in the UNC Botanical Garden. It has not shown itself to be a problem there or in Texas. reported in a grass flora of Texas, 1933 and the flora of Texas, 1970. PLANTS CA, NM, TX, BONAP adds AZ. Unlikely to regulate.
 - *Oplismenus hirtellus* spp. *undulatifolius* (Wavyleafed basketgrass). A detection in Maryland led to evaluation of this species. Further detections in Maryland and in Virginia are current under control/eradication programs. Invasiveness has been established, however, a final decision regarding regulation is on hold pending more information on the genetic status of this non-variegated form. We need to demonstrate that it not equivalent to the variegated form already in the horticulture trade.
 - *Rauwolfia vomitoria*. PLANTS present in PR. BONAP no listing. Pending evaluation or NAPPRA.
 - *Regnellidium diphyllum* is an aquatic fern in the same plant family, Marsileaceae, as *Salvinia molesta*. It is being sold online as an aquatic: http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=2668 Not known to be established in North America. No known vouchered specimens. <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=REDI> or BONAP. It is commonly cultivated for pond margins (Winterton and Scher, 2007). Pending evaluation or NAPPRA.
 - *Solanum sisymbriifolium*. Reported in roughly 14 states. Unlikely to regulate.
 - *Stratiotes aloides*. Query from Canada invasive species program. Pending evaluation or NAPPRA.
- The FNW National Program manager sponsored and supervised a native intern to do weed program work during the summer. The student was a part of the Washington Internship for Native Students (WINS) aka Washington Semester Program for American Indians/Alaska Natives/Alaska Natives – American University. The student drafted factsheets and attended various professional meetings with the FNW program manager. At the end of the summer, she was hired as a Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) intern. The student (attending William & Mary in VA) is part-time with APHIS PPQ during the college term, full time during the summer. She is coordinating development of factsheets, stakeholder outreach, extension, public awareness or training products or activities. We expect to assign additional program

assistance tasks to the intern, such as developing data analyses and summaries to support domestic program activities and enforcement cases, as well as other projects. The SCEP program allows interns (if they fulfill SCEP requirements) to be offered a position within 120 days following graduation, assuming EDP has such a permanent position available at that time.

Other Weed Outreach:

- **Weed displays:** In the pre-draft planning stage are two weed program related “windowshade” style banners. One will be generic to APHIS PPQ weed programs, the other specific to one or more FNW species.
- ***Commelina bengalensis*:** Benghal dayflower (also referred to as tropical spiderwort) in Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina. BD SE steering committee developed in cooperation with Southern Plant Board.
- **Invasiveness assessment parameter project.** Cooperative Agreement with Washington State Univ. sponsoring a project developing data regarding invasiveness assessment parameters to support APHIS evaluation programs.
- **Ag Discovery Program.** Again this year, The Federal Noxious Weed program manager presented information to students regarding the APHIS weed program in the Ag Discovery Program.

FNW Program work:

- **Japanese Dodder** (*Cuscuta japonica*) in California. Continued funding for survey and eradication program, with additional program funds for regional coordination.
- **Pulling Together Initiative funding.** In FY 2009, APHIS continued to work with the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW) on the “Pulling Together” Initiative. This initiative supports the creation of local Cooperative Weed Management Area partnerships that focus on mitigating the threat of invasive weeds. In 2009 APHIS funded 7 PTI projects in the states of HI, IN, OR, VA & WA on APHIS target species. APHIS funding for this effort supported survey, eradication, volunteer programs and site restoration activities for: Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Common crupina (*Crupina vulgaris*), Fireweed (*Senecio mategascarinsis*); Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) as well as the following proposed Federal Noxious Weeds or weeds of concern – Wavy leafed basketgrass (*Oplismenus hirtellus* spp. *undulatifolius* – FNW candidate spp); Miconia (*Miconia calvescens* – APHIS weed of concern). APHIS PTI funds also supported projects on invasiveness prediction and DNA fingerprinting of FNW, as well as providing support for National Invasive Species Awareness Week. Funding on these APHIS projects: \$79K from APHIS for 7 projects, other Fed \$67K ; total Non-Fed Match \$177.4K. Overall PTI projects 29 total Fed funding \$1,371.1K ; Total Non-Fed Match \$2,378.5K.
- **Offshore Pest Information System (OPIS) review.** Chair an expert panel (w/ Indira Singh & Larry Fowler) ranking weeds for adding or removing from OPIS the priority pest list. OPIS is a web-based tool designed to facilitate systematic collection, evaluation, and communication of relevant pest information from foreign counties.
- **APHIS Weed Emergency Response Plan.** Drafting underway.
- **Quadrilateral Scientific Collaboration in Plant Biosecurity (QUADS).** Plant Health Quadrilateral partners are Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States. The QUADS initiative provides a framework for scientific cooperation in

research and development regarding phytosanitary issues, and to identify and share tools and technologies for plant protection. The Quads Project on Weeds Incursion Response intends to develop elements for a weed EDRR toolkit.

- **Office of Science & Technology Policy, Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Ecological Systems, Invasive Species Working Group (OSTP CENR/SES/ISWG).** Planning for a workshop on predicting and forecasting invisibility for Invasive Species.

How much funds were requested? How much was spent? **No funds requested or spent**

What was the impact of the committee activities/accomplishments on the following: membership, publication, policy, legislation, and/or education? **Policy: Federal Noxious weed policy revisions, new candidate weeds evaluated and proposed for listing as FNW. Education: Various outreach projects.**

What is the current state of the committee's projects and activities? **Ongoing**

2010 Plan for Committee Activities

Goals for 2010: **Same as 2009; will review at WSSA meeting for possible changes.**

Plan of Action:

What is needed to further the goals of the committee/project?

We recommend adding to the WSSA website PDFs (or links to copies on the APHIS site) for the FNW factsheets as they are finalized.

Recommendations for Board/Society Action:

Funds requested for 2010: **None**

What is needed to further the goals of the committee/project?