



WSSA

WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hopefully, by the time you read this newsletter you have already registered and made your hotel reservations for the annual meeting in San Antonio. Jill Schroeder, Program Chair, and the Program Committee are putting the final touches on this year's program. There will be four symposia and opportunities for a

pre-meeting tour and statistics workshop. A special addition to this year's program is the presentation by Dr. Gale Buchanan, USDA Under-Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, on his vision on the future of Agricultural Research at the opening session. I would like to thank Lee Van Wychen and Jill Schroeder for setting this up. We also will be honoring our new Fellows and award winners at the Opening Session and the reception afterwards. Plan on attending both of these events. Also, please take the time to thank Jill and the Program Committee for all of their hard work.

Please plan to participate in the roundtable discussions at noon on Wednesday and in the business meeting Wednesday evening at 5:15. In my last newsletter article I told you about the decisions the Board of Directors made at our summer meeting. One of the major decisions was to pursue the possibility of publishing a new journal on Invasive Plant Science and Management. The committee led by Vanelle Carrithers and Lars Anderson has been very busy developing a business plan. This plan will be presented at the meeting in February. Based on the survey we conducted last year, there is a need for this type of journal and WSSA should take the lead. This is a major undertaking by WSSA and we need everyone's input. More information will be available before the meeting so we can make an informed decision.

As I write this, the Website Committee, chaired by Jeff Derr, is in the final stages of establishing a new, more user-friendly website. By the time you read this, the site may already be up. The Website Committee is looking for your input and suggestions on how to improve the WSSA website. Please take time to talk to Jeff and others on the committee and let them know your thoughts. I personally want to thank Jeff and the Website Committee for all of their hard work and efforts to make our website more useful to the membership and the public at large.

There are two other special committees that have been meeting since the sum-

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An Invitation to The USDA NRI Project Directors Session at the Annual Meeting

You are invited to attend a special Tuesday afternoon session on February 6 at the upcoming WSSA Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX where Project Directors supported by the USDA NRI Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species in Agroecosystems program will present, first in an oral session and then in posters, results of their research, education and extension activities.

First a little background about the program. While going by different names, and having different priorities, 2006 marks the 17th year of the NRI "Weeds" program. The program can trace its roots back to the origin of the National Research Initiative (NRI) in 1990. The program first went by the name "Plant Pathology/Weed Science" but in 1994 the plant pathology part was split off into its own program creating a stand-alone "Weed Science" program, which then in 1998 morphed into "Weed Biology and Management," and in 2000 into the "Biology of Weedy and Invasive Plants," and finally in 2006 into the "Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species in Agroecosystems." Over its seventeen year lifetime the Program has made 372 awards totaling more

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mer Board of Directors meeting. The new Public Relations Committee, chaired by Janice McFarland, has been developing ideas on how we can raise public awareness of WSSA and weed science in general. They will be making recommendations to the Board at the February meeting. The other committee on Professional Development of Members, chaired by Tracy Sterling, has met via teleconference multiple times and will make their recommendations to the Board in February. I am looking forward to an exciting and dynamic future for WSSA with all of the initiatives that we have started.

Alex Ogg and the special committee on XID and other publications have been extremely busy this year trying to meet our obligations and to increase the sales of the XID system. They need your help. We still need pictures of important weeds to fulfill WSSA's promise to XID. Please see Alex and find out what pictures he still needs. If all of us contribute just a little, we can easily finish this part of the project.

This is my last newsletter article as WSSA President. It has been a great honor to serve in this capacity. I have been fortunate to have an active and engaged Board of Directors and members. It has been a busy year and I have enjoyed it. I have been impressed by the willingness of our members to devote their time and energy to address the many issues that have arisen. When I sent out a request for volunteers to serve on the Professional Development Committee, many more than we could reasonably accommodate volunteered. We will introduce a new slate of officers at the meeting and I am grateful for those who are willing to serve in this capacity. If you are interested in serving on the Board or committees, be sure to inform a member of the Board. It is this willingness to serve our society that makes WSSA as strong as it is.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your President. It has been extremely fulfilling and a great experience.

Dale Shaner
President

INVITATION CONTINUED from pg 1

than \$48 million dollars. In the early years of the program the award size averaged somewhere around \$100,000 for 3 years; the average now is about \$280,000 for 3 years. One of the unique achievements of the program, especially over the past 10 years or so, has been the integration of weed science and ecology. I believe as a result of the program, ecological studies of weeds and invasive plants have become more management oriented and weed science has become more attentive in considering ecological processes.

The program is currently supporting 45 active projects, 31 of which will be featured at the WSSA meeting in San Antonio. The session will begin with five oral presentations followed by a panel that will explore how to make fundamental research relevant to the management and control of weedy and invasive species. After a mid-afternoon break, a poster session will include the remainder of the projects.

There are three main objectives of the session. First, is to create a collective sense of program membership amongst the awardees. Second, use the meeting venue to showcase the program to an important stakeholder organization; and, third, to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas, both scientific and those having to do with the program.

Michael A. Bowers

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WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

2007

San Antonio, TX

February 5-8

Hyatt Regency on the
Riverwalk

Local Arrangements:

Paul Baumann

(979) 845-4880

p-baumann@tamu.edu

2008

Chicago, IL

February 4-7

www.wssa.net

THINK NEWSLETTER

Deadline for April issue
March 1, 2007

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PROGRAM UPDATES

Weed Science Society of America Meeting in San Antonio, Texas February 5–8, 2007

The Weed Science Society of America would like to invite you to attend the 2007 annual meeting February 5–8 in San Antonio, Texas. Additional meeting information is available elsewhere in this newsletter and at <http://www.wssa.net/>. Our pre-meeting events include a tour of the Wintergarden region of Texas, hosted by Dr. Russ Wallace and colleagues on February 4, and a special one day workshop on “Statistical Assessment of Dose-Response Curves with Free Software” offered by Drs. Jens Streibig and Christian Ritz on February 5.

The annual meeting will begin on Monday, February 5, at 4:15 p.m. with the **General Session and Awards Ceremony** followed by the Awardee Reception. Dr. Gale Buchanan, USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, has accepted our invitation to share his vision on the future of Agricultural Research at the general session. On Wednesday, plan on attending the society business meeting followed by our second member reception. Additional program highlights include:

Graduate Student Activities: John Willis, President, and the Graduate Student Organization are making plans for a symposium titled “Employment Opportunities and How to Make Yourself More Marketable” Tuesday morning followed by a luncheon meeting. One of the presentations will be made by Holly Menninger of the American Institute of Biological Sciences on “Techniques and Tips for Communicating Your Science to the Media.”

Symposia: Three additional symposia are planned for the meeting. The Weed Biology and Physiology Sections have joined to offer a symposium “Using Emerging Technologies to Study Weed Biology: an educational forum” on Tuesday afternoon. James V. Anderson and Wun S. Chao are organizing this session and plan to invite vendors whose products complement the topics to display at the meeting. Debanjan Sanyal is organizing the second symposium “Integrated Weed Management Revisited” which will be held on Wednesday afternoon. Finally, a day long symposium “Nursery Stock vs. Invasive Plant: Which is it, and why do we care?” will be held on Thursday and is being organized by Alan Tasker and Nelroy Jackson in conjunction with the Turf and Ornamentals, Wildland and Aquatic Invasives and Regulatory Affairs sections. They will be advertising this symposium to attract a broad audience including local residents.

Roundtable Discussions and Mini-Symposia: The board of directors is planning a noon-time Roundtable discussion to provide information and obtain member input about the proposed new society journal “**Journal**

of Invasive Plant Science and Management.” Fred Salzman, Chair, is planning a Specialty Crop Roundtable Discussion as part of the Horticulture Section of the meeting. This will be an informal discussion of research results and issues that are common across the regions. Susan Sun is planning a panel discussion: Building Bridges between Industry and Academia in Formulation and Adjuvant Technology as part of the Formulation, Adjuvant, and Application Technology session. The Education and Extension session Thursday afternoon will include a mini-symposium where presenters discuss first year results of a multi-state project designed to investigate long-term weed shifts in Roundup Ready crops.

National Research Initiative Project Meeting: Michael A. Bowers, CSREES National Program Leader-Ecology, is chairing the 2007 Project Director meeting for the NRI Program, Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species in Agroecosystems at the WSSA meeting. Project directors will be presenting their research within the poster session. In addition, the directors will participate in a discussion session and poster session Tuesday afternoon that is open to all society members.

The final program and abstracts will soon be available at the WSSA web site. Abstracts of interest can be printed and meeting attendees will have the option of preparing their personal schedule for the meeting in advance. The abstracts will also be available online, with search capability by author, subject (key word), or program section, after the meeting for a minimum of five years. Because of this online availability, we will not be producing an abstract CD. Additionally, presenters will be able to submit their final PowerPoint presentation to the website prior to the meeting; section chairs will then organize and download the presentations to their computers prior to the meeting. This feature will eliminate some of the problems we have encountered with sending section chairs the presentations. However, presenters will need to be sure to complete and submit their presentations ahead of the meeting. Please pay attention to updates and information on deadlines as we get closer to the meeting.

I am looking forward to seeing you in warm San Antonio in February! The program section chairs and symposium organizers are working hard to develop a strong program for the meeting. I would also like to express our appreciation to Paul Baumann and his local arrangements committee for their work. I hope you have made your plans to attend.

Jill Schroeder
Program Chair

WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

Democrat Takeover in House and Senate Will Influence Agriculture, Environment, and Science Agenda during the 110th Congress

In case you missed it, the November elections brought forth the largest “power shift” in DC in over a decade. As of December 1, Democrats had picked up 29 House seats for a total of 231 out of 435 with 3 races still undecided. The Senate Democrats gained 6 seats, counting two Independents who will caucus with the party, giving the Democrats a 51-49 edge. Like the 1994 Republican’s “Contract With America,” the Democrats have outlined their “first 100 hours” agenda, which includes priorities like raising the minimum wage, cutting interest rates on student loans, and increasing energy efficiency and renewable fuels production. Still, the Democrats’ capacity to get legislation enacted will remain limited, owing both to the procedural rules of the Senate (e.g., the filibuster), and to the president’s veto power. Thus, the Democrats’ greatest leverage will come through their control of committees, where they will have the power to conduct any hearings or investigations they wish, whether focused on legislative priorities or oversight.

For weed scientists, that will mean dealing with a combination of some old faces returning to key committees and new ones taking the reins. And although all these politicians have track records, even the pundits admit that it’s too early to predict which issues will dominate the next 2 years, let alone how successful the Democrats will be in working with President Bush. One thing is for certain, Chairman and committee staff in both the House and Senate will change. Here are some early observations about how the Democrat victory in the House and Senate will affect weed and invasive plant science policy.

Senate Agriculture Committee:

Tom Harkin (D-IA) will take over the committee gavel from Saxby Chambliss (R-GA). Sen. Harkin is more interested in trying to strike a balance between competing demands from commodity groups that want continued government subsidies and environmentalists who want more money for conservation and renewable energy incentives. It will be the second time Harkin has been chairman during a reauthorization of the Farm Bill.

In Harkin’s Iowa, corn and soybean production rule, and he will continue to support commodity crop subsidies. At the same time, Harkin is the creator of the Conservation Security Program (CSP) in the 2002 Farm Bill which pays farmers for following specific land and water conservation practices. One opportunity for the weed science societies may be to push for more stringent standards regarding noxious weed control requirements within many of the federal conservation programs such as CRP and CSP.

Three newly elected Democratic senators – Sherrod Brown of Ohio, Bob Casey of Pennsylvania and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota – were assigned tentatively to the Senate Ag committee. During their campaigns, Klobuchar supported mandatory country-of-origin labeling for various products in the grocery store and disaster aid to farmers, while Casey supported biofuels and country-of-origin labels. Brown is a member of the National Farmers Union, which favors a larger federal role in agriculture.

House Agriculture Committee:

Collin C. Peterson (D-MN) will lead the House Agriculture Committee through next year’s rewrite of the 2002 Farm Bill. In the past year, Peterson’s initial plan was to seek a simple extension of the 2002 law.

After the November elections and a meeting with USDA Secretary Johanns, the Minnesotan now says some parts are worth revamping such as increasing support for the energy and renewable fuels Title in the 2002 law and adding a disaster relief Title.

The ‘Blue Dog’ Democrat says energy independence will be the most important aspect of the new farm bill which will also allow the Farm Bill writers to build new coalitions with urban members. This is akin to the food stamp and nutrition assistance programs used to sell past farm bills to urban Congressional members. Since renewable fuels research will be a hot topic for years, if not decades to come, it may be time for weed scientists to take a serious look at the feasibility of using weed biomass for energy production.

As for ag research funding, the proposal for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) lost two major supporters to the election with the defeat of Rep. Gil Gutknecht (R-MN) and Sen. Jim Talent (R-MO). NIFA would increase funds available for food and agriculture (ag, consistent throughout newsletter) research in addition to the current available resources at USDA-ARS and CSREES through a competitively awarded grant program similar to that conducted through the National Institute of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

While the House committee assignments have yet to be made on either side of the aisle, Peterson has indicated that a reorganization of the current five subcommittees under the House Ag Committee might be coming to provide more oversight of USDA programs and activities.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee:

Few panels would see a more drastic change of focus. With the retire-

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ment of James M. Jeffords (I-VT), Barbara Boxer (D-CA) would take the gavel from James Inhofe (R-OK). Boxer and Inhofe have been known to “disagree” on many issues under the Committee’s jurisdiction. At oversight hearings, Inhofe has strongly supported the Bush Administration’s approach to pollution control while Boxer has felt that the Bush administration has made efforts to roll back bedrock environmental safeguards.

Prior to the Thanksgiving break, Boxer named the chairmen of the panel’s six subcommittees and laid out an ambitious agenda with a focus on global warming. Under Boxer’s direction, the committee is expected to undergo a sharp change in both substance and style. Earlier in November, outgoing chairman Inhofe published “A skeptic’s guide to debunking global warming alarmism,” a compendium of his Senate speeches and press releases titled “Hot and Cold Media Spin Cycle: a challenge to journalists who cover global warming.” Meanwhile, Boxer’s state is leading the nation in efforts to combat global warming, enacting a law in August calling for a 25 percent reduction in state CO2 emissions by 2020.

The new Senate Environment and Public Works subcommittee lineup underlines Boxer’s focus on global warming. She will chair a newly named panel on Public Sector Solutions to Global Warming, Oversight, Children’s Health Protection and Nuclear Safety. Meanwhile, Sen. Lieberman (D-CT), recently re-elected as an independent, will chair a subcommittee on Private Sector and Consumer Solutions to Global Warming and Wildlife Protection.

Regardless of your political persuasion on global warming, Sen. Boxer has been a strong supporter of invasive species management and research in the past, particularly aquatic invasive species. She has supported legislation such as the Ballast Water Management Act of 2005 that amends the Nonindigenous Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to revise certain aquatic invasive species prevention requirements and

set forth protocols for the early detection and monitoring of recently established aquatic invasive species in U.S. waters. Boxer’s home state of California has also been a leader on invasive plant management initiatives. There should be many opportunities for WSSA members from California to build and cultivate a stronger relationship with Sen. Boxer and her staff.

House Resources Committee:

Nick Rahall II (D-WV) will take the reins of the House Resources Committee from Richard Pombo (R-CA). Rahall’s agenda will probably be a dramatic departure from that of Pombo, a California rancher who fought to loosen environmental laws and protect private property rights.

Pombo tried repeatedly to rewrite the Endangered Species Act, where he fought to ease its mandates by guiding the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act (TESRA) through the House in 2005 before it stalled in the Senate. Rahall argues that more money is needed for federal agencies to fulfill their responsibilities under the law, but he does not favor a complete overhaul.

Likewise, Pombo and other critics of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires federal agencies to assess and minimize environmental impacts of major projects, have characterized that law as burdensome and antiquated. Rahall, however, says the law might need some “tinkering around the edges” but generally has been effective.

The House Resources committee is also likely to head in a different direction on energy policy. Pombo advocated boosting production of fossil fuels on public lands, including in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and offshore. Being from a coal-producing state, Rahall fought those efforts. Rahall probably will seek to advance clean-coal technology and will likely push legislation that would redirect fees paid by coal companies to cover health care costs of some retired miners and to speed the cleanup of abandoned mine sites.

House Science Committee:

The new chair of the House Science Committee will be Rep. Bart Gordon (D-TN). He shares many of the same interests as his predecessor, retiring Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY). That list includes increasing spending on science, improving U.S. science and math education, developing new energy technologies to reduce the country’s dependence on foreign oil, and ensuring that government scientists are free to disseminate their results. Gordon says that legislation to boost U.S. competitiveness will be a priority for Democrats and that he also expects the panel to take up a reauthorization of programs at NSF.

House Appropriations Committees:

Rep. David Obey (D) from Wisconsin is expected to win the chairmanship of the full House Appropriations Committee. The anticipated Chairwoman for the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies is Rosa L. DeLauro (D) from Connecticut. She is likely to make food safety a priority, including improved enforcement of food safety laws and surveillance for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease. The House Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Charles Taylor (R-NC) was defeated by former NFL player Heath Shuler (D-NC). Rep. Norm Dicks (D) from Washington is expected to become the new chairman. Peter J. Visclosky from Indiana is expected to chair the House Approps Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies. Allan Mollohan (D) from West Virginia is expected to chair the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Science and related agencies.

Senate Appropriations Committees:

On the Senate side, Robert Byrd (D) from West Virginia, the most senior member in the Senate, will take over the chairmanship of the appropriations committee from Thad Cochran (R-MS). Senator Herb Kohl of Wisconsin is expected to become chairman of the Senate Ag Appro-

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priations Subcommittee. Byron Dorgan (D) of North Dakota is likely to become chairman of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee for the Interior. He is likely to follow up on his complaints in recent years that funding levels for environmental agencies have been stagnant while their responsibilities have substantially increased. The leadership for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water is still unclear as Sen. Reid (D-NV) is likely to give up the chairmanship of the panel when he becomes Senate majority leader. That could lead to other shifts among Democrats, with Patty Murray of Washington or Dianne Feinstein of California possibly giving up their current subcommittees to take over Energy and Water. Finally, Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD) is expected to take over the subcommittee gavel for Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations.

President Bush Signs Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Bill into Law

On October 11, 2006, President Bush signed the Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act (SCROCCA) into law. Since we are short on acronyms here in DC, SCROCCA should be a worthwhile acronym for those of you west of the Mississippi River to get to know. Plus it sounds "tough."

The bill (SCROCCA) directs Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation and the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey to disburse \$80 million over 5 years (FY 2006-2010) to carry out a salt cedar (*Tamarix spp*) and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) assessment and demonstration program. Since FY 2006 is already gone and FY 2007 appropriations should have been approved by Oct. 1, 2006, only 3 fiscal years of this bill remain in play for all practical purposes. Under SCROCCA, FY 2008-2010 are authorized at \$15 million per year.

This legislation has three major components: (1) assess the current

extent of the infestation by salt cedar and Russian olive trees in the western United States; (2) demonstrate strategic solutions for the long-term management of such trees and the reestablishment of native vegetation; and (3) assess economic means to dispose of biomass created as a result of removal of tamarisk and Russian olive trees. A majority of the authorized appropriations will be designated for Phase 2, the demonstration and long term management and research projects. This legislation has many proponents and more details will be forthcoming. The National and Regional Weed Science Societies will be circulating a letter of support for SCROCCA appropriations in the near future.

WSSA Submits Comments on MSMA Reregistration by EPA

In August 2006, the EPA said it would not reregister the organic arsenical herbicides, in particular MSMA. Many WSSA members feel that MSMA is a critical weed management tool in cotton, turf, roadside weed, and herbicide resistance management, especially in southern cropping systems. The EPA offered a public comment period for concerns and objections that ended on November 11, 2006 and the WSSA submitted the following selected comments:

"The registration of MSMA is critical to maintaining safe and economically viable weed management options in cotton and turf production systems. A variety of treatments or techniques must be available for management of weeds in these systems. By eliminating MSMA as a weed management control option, the economic integrity of these production and management situations will be severely degraded. MSMA needs to remain as a critical weed resistance management option, plus it is the only control option for several widespread and problematic grass weeds in turf... The EPA's primary concern with using organic arsenical herbicides is the potential for applied organic arsenical products to transform to a more toxic inorganic form of arsenic in soil with subsequent transport to drinking water. Yet, the

EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water states that arsenic occurs naturally in rocks and soil, water, air, and plants and animals. It can be further released into the environment through natural activities such as volcanic action, erosion of rocks and forest fires, or through human actions. Approximately 90 percent of industrial arsenic in the U.S. is currently used as a wood preservative, but arsenic is also used in paints, dyes, metals, drugs, soaps and semi-conductors. High arsenic levels can also come from certain fertilizers and animal feeding operations. The WSSA is not aware of the increased exposure of arsenic to the U.S. population from MSMA derivatives. If EPA has conclusive data indicating otherwise, the WSSA would be very appreciative in learning this... Given the depth of expertise available with the WSSA, we believe we can help the EPA with all manner of questions relative to assessment of the reregistration of MSMA. This expertise includes understanding the scope of data included in the reregistration packages submitted to EPA, herbicide modes of action, environmental mobility, non-target risks, use limitations, potential persistence and selectivity, and comparative efficacy. Given this expertise we would like to participate in any efforts to develop such a protocol for re-evaluating the reregistration of MSMA."

Van Wychen Attends 2006 Annual Meeting of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) annual meeting was held September 17-22, Aspen, CO. AFWA represents all of North America's fish and wildlife agencies – promoting sound management and conservation, speaking with a unified voice on important fish and wildlife issues. My primary goal was to establish and build relationships and identify areas of common interest shared by WSSA and AFWA on invasive plant issues. AFWA considers invasive plants as one of the greatest challenges to wildlife and

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fisheries management in the 21st century.

In 2005, AFWA established an Invasive Species Committee to provide a national forum for coordinated action among state and federal agencies, and provide a foundation for development of a strategic AFWA invasive species plan. Federal land management agencies commit millions of dollars to fighting invasive species challenges, and strategic coordination among state and federal agencies is critical to the conservation and expansion of existing wildlife and fisheries habitat. The WSSA plans to continue this initiative during National Invasive Weed Awareness Week by helping coordinate a joint session between the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds and AFWA. For more information about the AFWA Invasives Species Committee or to become a member, please contact Amber Pairis at 202-624-7890 or apairis@fishwildlife.org.

Glyphosate-Resistant Marestalk Confirmed in Nebraska

WSSA members Alex Martin and Stevan Knezevic with the University of Nebraska confirmed the first glyphosate-resistant weed species in Nebraska – marestalk, also known as horseweed. They first suspected resistance had developed almost a year ago, but it took tests and growing plants from last year's seeds to confirm it. Prior to the introduction of glyphosate-tolerant crops only a few weed species (e.g. ryegrass and goosegrass) had developed resistance to glyphosate worldwide. However, the number of glyphosate-resistant weeds tripled in just over eight years of repeated glyphosate use over a large land area (over 50 million acres). Current examples of glyphosate-resistant weeds in the U.S. include waterhemp, lambsquarters, giant ragweed, common ragweed, palmer amaranth and marestalk (horseweed).

EPA Issues Final Rule on Aquatic Pesticide Applications

On November 21, 2006, the EPA issued a final rule clarifying two specific circumstances in which a Clean Water Act (CWA) permit is not required before pesticides are applied. This rule represents efforts by EPA over the past five years through consultations with numerous stakeholders and two public comment periods. The final rule states that CWA permits are not required to apply pesticides directly to water to control pests, including mosquito larvae, aquatic weeds and other pests in the water nor when pesticides are applied to control pests that are present over or near water where a portion of the pesticide will unavoidably be deposited to the water in order to target the pests effectively.

The rule reinforces and clarifies the authority set forth in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Before a herbicide is registered, it must undergo extensive study and review to help ensure that it does not cause unreasonable adverse effects on human health and the environment, which includes herbicide applications directly to or near a body of water. The final rule will become effective on January 26, 2007. However, the implications of the rule on pending Region IX circuit court cases are unknown at this time. For more information:

http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=41#water_transfer

Guidance on Pesticide Product Warranty Statements Available

Most, if not all, pesticide labels contain some type of warranty disclaimer language. EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) has posted on its Web site a document that provides a discussion and examples of warranty statements for pesticide products that the agency considers either acceptable or unacceptable. OPP is aware that some warranty disclaimer statements may contain potentially false or misleading language, or words and phrases that are in some way objectionable. Additionally, OPP is frequently asked

by applicants/registrants about warranty disclaimer language they wish to place on pesticide labels. Therefore, OPP is posting on its web site the agency's guidance on warranty statements.

There are four types of label language associated with warranty disclaimers, and statements of limitations of liability that the Agency has found to be unacceptable under statutory and regulatory standards. It is important to recognize that these statements must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Following are examples of statements that have been found unacceptable:

Overly broad statements negating or detracting from the Directions for Use or other label language (including precautionary statements and directions for use). For instance, the warranty statement that the product may not work would negate Directions for Use that explained how the product was to be used.

Label language asserting that the buyer has accepted the manufacturer's statement of his/her respective rights (e.g., manufacturer states buyer's rights are extremely limited or require a specific process to be realized). Because these statements are almost always incomplete (in terms of fully explaining a buyer's rights in the jurisdiction (state) of purchaser) and because they can mislead buyers into thinking that they have no legal remedy, they may constitute "misbranding" under FIFRA.

Overly broad language implying the buyer has no legal right to recover damages from manufacturer (e.g., "all such risks shall be assumed by the buyer").

Because Experimental Use Permit (EUP) labels must be used in strict accordance with the EUP program, the warranty on EUP labels may not disclaim control over use.

For more information:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/labels/warranty.pdf>

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PEOPLE & PLACES IN THE NEWS

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Council has elected **Dr. David Gealy** (Plant Physiologist and Facilities Manager at the USDA-ARS, Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center at Stuttgart, Arkansas) to the rank of AAAS Fellow. David is being honored for “distinguished contributions to the understanding of basic weed biology and physiology and their exploitation to reduce the impacts of weeds in rice and wheat.”



The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Council has elected **Dr. Jodie Holt** (Professor and Chair, Botany and Plant Sciences Department, University of California, Riverside) to the rank of AAAS Fellow. Jodie is being honored for contributions to the field of weed science, particularly the development of ecological approaches to management and for leadership in the Weed Science Society of America and at UC Riverside.

Each year the AAAS Council elects members whose “efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished.” Election of AAAS Fellows began in 1874.



Jennifer Vollmer is one of the newly selected members of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC).

ISAC is made up of 30 individuals representing a broad range of stakeholders including scientific, conservation, agriculture, State and Tribal governments and industry organizations that are impacted by invasive species.

Vollmer was selected as a member not only because of her deep understanding of invasive species and how they can impact the environment but also for her 17 years of experience working in vegetation management and expertise in working with Federal and State government agencies to coordinate noxious and invasive species eradication efforts.

In her role on the committee, Vollmer will work with other members to provide advice and recommendations to members of the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) regarding invasive species matters of national significance. NISC is an inter-departmental council that coordinates Federal invasive species programs to ensure complementary and cost-effective response to invasive species issues.

“As a member of ISAC working groups, Dr. Vollmer brought her extensive expertise to major NISC projects, such as the drafting of NISC’s Guidelines for Ranking Invasive Species Control Projects, released in May, 2005. As a full member of ISAC, I am sure she will continue to provide valuable advice to NISC and be an effective representative. I’m looking forward to working more closely with her now that she’s a member of our Invasive Species Advisory Committee,” said Dr. Chris Dionigi, Assistant Director for Domestic Policy, Science, and Cooperation, NISC.

ABOUT NISC

NISC is co-chaired by the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture and Commerce, and its members include the Secretaries of State, Defense, Transportation, Treasury, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security and the Administrators of the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration, the National Air and Space Administration, U. S. Agency for International Development and the U. S. Trade Representative.

WASHINGTON REPORT

continued from page 7

USDA-APHIS Lists South African Ragwort and Madagascar Ragwort as Noxious Weeds

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has amended the noxious weed and imported seed regulations by adding South African ragwort (*Senecio inaequidens* DC.) and Madagascar ragwort (*Senecio madagascariensis* Poir.) to the list of terrestrial noxious weeds and to the list of seeds with no tolerances applicable to their introduction. The final rule was adopted on October 5, 2006 and was necessary to prevent the artificial spread of these noxious weeds into the U.S. For more information, contact WSSA member Dr. Al Tasker, Noxious Weeds Program Coordinator, Invasive Species and Pest Management, at 301-734-5225.

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THINK NEWSLETTER
Deadline for April issue
March 1, 2007



NECROLOGY

WILLIAM HAROLD MINSHALL

William Harold Minshall, Ph.D. died peacefully in his 95th year at Sarnia on November 5, 2006, with his loving daughter at his side. Predeceased by his wife of 57 years, Reta Elizabeth (1996), and a son Bruce William (1975). Survived by daughter Gaye Carol Sinclair and son-in-law Murray Sinclair, grandchildren Daryl Sinclair and wife Karen of Clarkston, Michigan, and Sara Sinclair-Plaskos and husband Chris of New York City. Also survived by his brother Lloyd Minshall and his wife Bertha and predeceased by his sister, Rhea Minshall.

Harold was born near Burford in 1911, son of the late David and Mary Etta Minshall. He was a proud graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, and maintained a lifetime connection through the Alumni Association and as a member of the senate of Guelph University. Harold had a distinguished lifetime career as a researcher with the Canadian Department of Agriculture, first in Ottawa, during which time he obtained a M. Sc. and a Ph.D. degree from McGill. He was transferred to London in 1951 as a Senior Plant Physiologist at the Research Institute of Agriculture on the UWO Campus. He was an Honorary Lecturer in the Biology Dept. at the University of Western Ontario and also president of the Ontario Institute of Agrologists.

Harold was an active member of Robinson United Church since arriving in London in 1951. He was a trustee on the board at Robinson United Church and chairman of the finance committee of the Middlesex Presbytery.

Harold turned his research skills to genealogy as he approached retirement and spent many hours researching his family. He served as president of the Ontario Genealogy Society 1971–1972.

Friends were received at the James A. Harris Funeral Home, 220 St. James Street at Richmond, on Wednesday, November 8, 2–4 and 7–9 p.m. Funeral Service was at Robinson United Church, 1061 Richmond Street at Sherwood, London, ON at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, November 9. Following the funeral, interment was at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, near Brantford. Memorial contributions may be made to Robinson United Church, London or a charity of your choice and would be gratefully acknowledged.



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR – EXTENSION AGRONOMIST Broadleaf and Alternative Crops, Cropping Systems

State funded 12 month tenure-track position located in the Department of Plant Sciences at North Dakota State University (NDSU) in Fargo and has a 90% extension/10% research appointment. Travel off campus is required to carry out an outreach educational program. State automobiles and travel budget provided. This position includes, but is not limited to, the following responsibilities: provide leadership in planning, developing, and conducting statewide educational programs in agronomic broadleaf crops, alternative crops and cropping systems; prepare background information and teaching materials for county agricultural extension agents and area specialists in development and implementation of agronomic phases of the total educational program designed to help producers and others improve crop profitability; provide in-service agronomic training for county agricultural extension agents and area specialists; maintain close working relationship with NDSU Plant Sciences, College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources faculty, various crop commodity organizations and North Dakota Crop Improvement and Seed Association; prepare circulars, bulletins, newsletters, maintain a crop website and other educational materials in furtherance of the overall educational extension program in agronomy; utilize educational media such as radio, television, newspapers, electronic delivery, telephone and teleconferences and coordinate educational activities with members of research and extension faculty in a mixture or crop related disciplines. Research in some of the crops encompassed in this position is expected.

Required qualifications are an earned Ph.D. in agronomy, crop science or weed science; knowledge in broadleaf and alternative crops, tillage sys-

tems, genetics or plant breeding and biotechnology, variety selection, seed production, and knowledge of weed control; demonstrated ability to work effectively with university faculty, extension staff, producer groups and the public; ability to apply research results and provide recommendations and guidelines for producers; effective communication skills in writing and speaking; demonstrated skills in computer applications and technology, valid U.S. drivers license or equivalent.

Preferred qualifications are farm background or relevant farming experience; prior extension or teaching experience in a university, or equivalent experience in industry.

Screening of applications begins immediately after the closing date of December 31, 2006, and will continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

Salary commensurate with qualifications, training and experience. Information on employment benefits is available on the NDSU home page (<http://www.ndsu.edu/ndsu/jobs/benefits/index.shtml>).

For full consideration, candidates interested in applying must submit the following materials to the address below: 1) a letter of application discussing how the stated qualifications are met; 2) a detailed resume; 3) official academic transcripts from all institutions attended; 4) arrange to have three current letters of reference sent to:

Dr. Joel Ransom
Chair of Search Committee
Department of Plant Sciences
North Dakota State University
Box 5051
Fargo, ND 58105
Phone: 701-231-7405
FAX 701-231-8474
Email: joel.ransom@ndsu.edu

NDSU is an Equal Opportunity Institute.



ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, Weed Science

Full-time, tenure track position

with 75% Extension, 25% Research responsibilities.

LOCATION: The University of Tennessee, Department of Plant Sciences, Knoxville

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007. Screening of applicants' credentials will begin December 12, 2006 and will continue until the position is filled.

SALARY AND BENEFITS: Salary is commensurate with training and experience. Benefits include group hospitalization and life insurance, Federal Employees Retirement; Workers' Compensation; study, sick and annual leave; numerous University of Tennessee and state benefit programs, including liberal time off for holidays and longevity pay after three years of service; reimbursement for official travel.

JOB DESCRIPTION: Provide leadership for planning, implementing and evaluating a statewide horticultural weed science educational program. Areas of responsibility will include fruits and vegetables, consumer turf and landscape, and ornamentals. Conduct applied research in these same areas, and also in invasive plants as they relate to horticultural systems. Develop partnerships with county, district, and statewide Extension faculty, industry representatives and Experiment Station personnel to develop weed control systems-based educational programs. Work in close liaison with other UT faculty as appropriate. Obtain extramural funding to advance educational and research program objectives. Develop and utilize appropriate technology transfer to inform clientele. Develop timely publications, training materials and programs for county Extension staff, producers, agribusiness firms and other agencies. Publish results of applied research in appropriate outlets to include research reports, the popular press, abstracts, refereed journals, and the world wide web. Work closely with producer groups and industry representatives to promote practices for improved

CONTINUED on pg 11 >>

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONTINUED from pg 10

crop profitability and program support. Provide leadership for an educational program that meets the needs of eligible clientele regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion or veteran status.

REQUIREMENTS: Earned doctorate in Horticulture, Plant Sciences, or a closely related plant discipline with emphasis on field methods of Weed Science Expertise in modern agricultural production practices, particularly related to production of horticultural crops. Excellent written and oral communication skills to interact effectively with faculty, producers and non-farm clientele. Ability to secure extramural funding to support the educational and research programs. Must be willing to travel as this program involves statewide educational responsibilities.

TO APPLY: Please apply online at: <http://www.utextension.utk.edu/employment/NewForms.html>

NEW APPLICANTS

Tennessee Transfer Requests: Please attach the following electronic documents to the application or mail hard copies to the contact below: curriculum vita or resume; list of relative publications and/or presentations; list of references (five minimum); and official transcript(s) showing degree(s) conferred.

Application forms available upon request. Direct inquiries to:

Dr. G. Neil Rhodes, Jr.
The University of Tennessee
252 Ellington Plant Sciences
2431 Joe Johnson Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996-4500
Phone: (865) 974-7208
Fax: (865) 974-1947
TTY/TTD (865) 974-7245
Email: UTExt
Personnel@utk.edu
Web Site: <http://www.utextension.utk.edu>

REQUIREMENTS: Request for transfer/reassignment may be approved if applicant: has been employed with Extension in their current location a minimum of eighteen (18) months; has a performance rating of satisfactory or above for the previous eight-

een (18) months; and training appropriate for the assignment.

Please complete Transfer/Reassignment form online at:

<http://www.utextension.utk.edu/employment/>

Dr. H. Charles Goan, Interim Dean
UT Extension
121 Morgan Hall
Knoxville, TN 37996-4530
Phone: (865) 974-7245
Fax: (865) 974-1068



ASSISTANT PROFESSOR – EXTENSION AGRONOMIST Sugarbeet, Weed Science

Full-time, 12-month tenure track state-funded position at the assistant professor level. This is a joint position funded by the University of Minnesota and North Dakota State University. The 80% extension/20% research appointment is located in the Department of Plant Sciences at North Dakota State University (NDSU) in Fargo. Although the research appointment is only 20%, an extensive research program is in place and is expected to be continued. Funding is available through a granting process from the Sugarbeet Research and Education Board of North Dakota and Minnesota which administers annual checkoff funds from sugarbeet growers. Travel off-campus is required to conduct research and to carry out an outreach educational program. Office and lab space are provided.

This position includes, but is not limited to, the following responsibilities: provide leadership in planning, developing, and conducting educational and research programs in sugarbeet weed control and cropping systems; prepare background information and teaching materials for county agricultural extension agents, area specialists and industry agronomists for the development and implementation of agronomic phases of the total educational program designed to help producers and others improve sugarbeet profitability; provide in-service agronomic training for county agricultural extension agents, area

specialists and industry agronomists; maintain close working relationship with NDSU Plant Sciences and College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources faculty, the Sugarbeet Research and Education Board and the sugarbeet industry; prepare circulars, bulletins, newsletters, and other educational materials in furtherance of the overall educational extension program in agronomy; utilize educational media such as radio, television, websites, newspapers, electronic delivery, telephone and teleconferences; coordinate educational activities with members of research and extension faculty in a mixture of sugarbeet related disciplines; and advise graduate students.

Required qualifications are an earned Ph.D. in weed science or crop science; broad knowledge in crop production, and weed control; demonstrated ability to work effectively with university faculty, extension staff, producer groups and the public; ability to apply research results and provide recommendations and guidelines for producers; effective communication skills in writing and speaking; demonstrated skills in computer applications and technology, valid U.S. drivers license or equivalent.

Preferred qualifications are farm background or relevant farming experience; prior extension experience, experience with sugarbeet, university research or teaching experience or equivalent experience in industry.

Academic rank and salary are commensurate with qualifications, training and experience.

Send letter of application, detailed resume, official academic transcripts, and arrange to have three current letters of reference sent to:

Dr. Richard Zollinger
Chair of Search Committee
Department of Plant Sciences
Loftsgard Hall
North Dakota State University
Fargo, ND 58105-5051
Phone: (701) 231-8157
FAX: (701) 231-8474
Email: r.zollinger@ndsu.edu

Closing date is December 31, 2006 or until a suitable candidate is employed.

NDSU is an Equal Opportunity Institute.

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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONTINUED from pg 11

INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT EXTENSION SPECIALIST AND ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

The Agronomy and Soils Department of Auburn University is seeking applicants for an Invasive Plant Management Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor. This is a 9-month, tenure-track position with a 75% extension and 25% research appointment. The successful candidate is expected to develop a nationally recognized extension program addressing invasive plant management in Alabama. Cooperative interactions with other faculty, state and Federal agencies, organizations, and individuals will be required for training extension personnel and other stakeholders to identify invasive plants and to establish and coordinate a reporting and mapping system

for Alabama. In addition, the incumbent will be expected to establish a statewide system for early detection; establish best management practices to limit introduction of invasive species; identify pathways which allow the introduction and spread of invasive species; and develop a funding base through competitive grants, private grants, and cost-share funds for invasive plant management.

Other responsibilities include plant identification, establishing field trials, and developing training materials and publications. The successful candidate will be expected to procure extramural funds to support programs and provide summer salary.

Required qualifications include: 1) earned Ph.D. in weed science, plant ecology, plant taxonomy, or a closely related discipline (all requirements for the PhD must be completed by 16 August 2007); 2) formal education or extensive experience in field research; 3) formal education or extensive experience in plant identification;

4) effective communication and computer usage skills; candidate must demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in English, both in writing and verbally, and 5) meet eligibility requirements for work in the United States at the time of appointment.

For detailed application procedures contact Kay Holloway:

E-mail – hollokm@auburn.edu;

Fax: 334-844-3945;

Phone: 334-844-3899;

or mail:

Agronomy and Soils Department
Auburn Univ, AL 36849-5412

Active review of applications will begin on 15 January 2007, but the search will continue until the position is filled. To ensure consideration for the position, applications must be received by end of business on 15 January 2007.

Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

Auburn University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity

9th World Congress on Parasitic Plants • Charlottesville, VA International Parasitic Plant Society (IPPS) Meeting

9th World Congress on Parasitic Plants, June 3 to June 7, 2007, Omni Hotel, Charlottesville, Virginia USA. This is a meeting of the International Parasitic Plant Society (IPPS), and all researchers interested in parasitic plants are invited to participate. The program will consist of oral presentations and posters. Oral presentations will be selected from submitted abstracts.

Featured speakers

Maria Harrison (Cornell University, USA) *Special cross-disciplinary lecture: "The arbuscular mycorrhizal symbiosis; genomics approaches to dissect development and function"*

Fred Kanampiu (CIMMYT, Kenya) *"Striga weed management options under smallholder agriculture in Africa"*

Jeffrey Palmer (Indiana University, USA) *"Horizontal gene transfer gone wild in parasitic and other flowering plants"*

Alejandro Perez de Luque (IFAPA-CICE, Spain) *"Mechanisms of resistance to parasitic plants: from field screenings to laboratory microscopic studies"*

Julie Scholes (University of Sheffield, UK) *"Host response to parasitism by Striga"*

Koichi Yoneyama (Utsunomiya University, Japan)

*"Qualitative and quantitative differences of strigolactone exudation determine host specificity of root parasites *Orobanch* and *Striga*"*

To find additional information, register, and submit abstracts, go to www.cpe.vt.edu/wcopp. The deadline for abstract submission is March 1, 2007, and for standard registration is May 15, 2007. The registration fee includes admission to all talks and posters, an opening reception, coffee breaks, lunches, a banquet, and a field trip to see local parasites and historic sites. Please direct comments or questions to Jim Westwood, Program Chair (westwood@vt.edu).

Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Charlottesville and the surrounding area is known for natural beauty and a variety of accommodations, attractions, events, and activities that make it an ideal destination for visitors of all ages. The Omni Charlottesville is a first class conference hotel conveniently located within easy walking distance of many shops and restaurants on the Charlottesville Downtown Mall. The hotel website is:

<http://www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/Charlottesville.aspx>

The Local Organizing Committee is Michael P. Timko (Chair), Lytton Musselman, and Jim Westwood.

Northeast Regional Project NE-42

Weed scientists from experiment stations in the northeast region of the US collaborated under the Northeast Regional Project NE-42 entitled "Weed Life Cycles, Soil Micro-organisms and Light as Factors in the Control of Weeds in the Northeast" to study weed biology and ecology. The studies involved detailed field, greenhouse, and laboratory germination trials, plant growth and development as influenced by light and moisture, and response to herbicides. Out of this collective effort, nine publications were written detailing the results. The Northeast Regional Weed Control Technical Committee (NE-42), published these bulletins from 1962 until 1986, with Dr. Robert Sweet, Cornell University, taking a very active role in writing these publications. The species examined were: barnyardgrass; large and small crabgrass; yellow and giant foxtail; galinsoga; horsenettle; yellow nutsedge; common purslane; quackgrass; and common ragweed.

These publications contain excellent information that is not available from other sources. Unfortunately, it is difficult to locate many of these bulletins. Recently, these publications have been scanned and are now available as PDF files at the Northeastern Weed Science Society's website:

www.newss.org/publications.php

Send Newsletter material to:

DAVID SHAW

WSSA Newsletter Editor

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2006-0078]

Evaluating the Invasive Potential of Imported Plants; Electronic Public Discussion

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of electronic public discussion.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is hosting an electronic public discussion on methods that can be used to evaluate the potential of imported plants to become invasive species if they are introduced into the United States. Any interested person can register for the electronic discussion, which will allow participants to upload files and interact with other participants and with APHIS staff.

DATES: The electronic public discussion will be held from November 27, 2006 to January 26, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Polly Lehtonen, Senior Staff Officer, Commodity Import Analysis and Operations, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-8758.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701-7772 *et seq.*), *noxious weed* is defined as: "Any plant or plant product that can directly or indirectly injure or cause damage to crops (including nursery stock or plant products), livestock, poultry, or other interests of agriculture, irrigation, navigation, the natural resources of the United States, the public health, or the environment." The Plant Protection Act

authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to undertake such actions as may be necessary to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests and noxious weeds within the United States. The Secretary has delegated this responsibility to the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

The regulations in 7 CFR part 360, "Noxious Weed Regulations," contain restrictions on the movement of noxious weed plants or plant products listed in that part into or through the United States and interstate. To add a plant to the list of noxious weeds in part 360, or to remove a plant from that list, APHIS conducts a pest risk analysis. One part of this analysis is an evaluation of the potential of the plant to become an invasive species. (The term *invasive species* is defined by Executive Order 13112 as a species that is: (1) Non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and (2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. The first part of this definition includes all imported plants that are not present in the United States; the second part is consistent with the definition of *noxious weed* in the Plant Protection Act, as quoted above. Accordingly, we make a determination regarding a plant's potential for invasiveness when determining whether to add the plant to the noxious weed list in part 360.) If the pest risk analysis indicates that a change should be made to the regulations, we undertake rulemaking to do so.

Since it is impossible to determine definitively whether a plant that is not present in the United States will become invasive when introduced to the United States without actually introducing the plant, APHIS uses other types of scientific information to help make judgments about whether a plant, if imported, would be likely to be invasive. Several years ago, APHIS commissioned an evaluation of the state of scientific knowledge about biological invasions and the state of our ability to reliably predict the outcome of accidental or intentional introductions of nonindigenous species. The National Research Council established the Committee on the Scientific Basis for Predicting the Invasive Potential of Nonindigenous Plants and Plant Pests in the United States to complete this

evaluation. The resulting study, published in 2002, concluded that the record of a plant's invasiveness in other geographical areas is currently the most reliable predictor of the plant's ability to establish itself and become invasive when introduced into the United States.¹

The study further concluded that there are currently no known broad scientific principles or reliable procedures for evaluating the invasive potential of plants in geographic ranges where they are not present, but that a conceptual basis for understanding invasions exists, and this conceptual basis could be developed into principles for predicting invasiveness. The study recommended that the framework APHIS uses to evaluate imported plants for potential release as forage, crops, soil reclamation, and ornamental landscaping should be expanded to include evaluation of the hazards these species might pose. The study also recommended that controlled experimental field screening for potentially invasive species be pursued for species whose features are associated with establishment and rapid spread without cultivation and whose history of introduction into the United States is unknown.

To follow up on these recommendations, we are requesting an exchange of ideas and information about methods to evaluate plants for potential invasiveness. The information will be helpful for both the APHIS noxious weed program and the revision of the nursery stock quarantine regulations in 7 CFR part 319 (§§ 319.37 through 319.37-14). (The revision of the nursery stock regulations was discussed in general terms in an advance notice of proposed rulemaking published in the **Federal Register** on December 10, 2004 [69 FR 71736-71744, Docket No. 03-069-1].) As part of the revision of the nursery stock regulations, we anticipate publishing a proposed rule at some point following this electronic discussion that will solicit public comment on establishing a category of plants whose importation is not authorized pending pest risk analysis based on other scientific evidence that indicates invasive potential. Because we would be performing pest risk analyses to remove plants from that category and

¹ The study is available for purchase through the Internet at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10259.html>.

either allow their importation or add them to the list of prohibited noxious weeds, we would like to ensure that our pest risk analysis process for potentially invasive plants is able to evaluate the risk posed by these plants as thoroughly and rigorously as possible.

Members of the APHIS Weed Team will participate in the electronic discussion. We will share all data and opinions offered during the discussion with other groups that are interested in methods to predict invasiveness for both plants and animals, such as the National Invasive Species Council Pathways Work Team and the North American Plant Protection Organization Invasive Species Panel.

Questions for Discussion

We would like participants in the electronic discussion to specifically address the following six questions, although general comments on the issue of evaluating invasiveness will be accepted as well.

1. What criteria, other than whether the plant has a history of invasiveness elsewhere, are most useful to determine the invasiveness of a plant introduced into the United States for the first time?

2. When there is little or no existing scientific literature or other information describing the invasiveness of a plant species, how much should we extrapolate from information on congeners (other species within the same genus)?

3. What specific scientific experiments should be conducted to best evaluate a plant's invasive potential? Should these experiments be conducted in a foreign area, in the United States, or both?

4. How should the results of such experiments be interpreted? Specifically, what results should be interpreted as providing conclusive information for a regulatory decision?

5. If field trials are necessary to determine the invasive potential of a plant, under what conditions should the research be conducted to prevent the escape of the plant into the environment?

6. What models or techniques are being used by the nursery industry, weed scientists, seed companies, botanical gardens, and others to screen plants that have not yet been widely introduced into the United States for invasiveness? What species have been rejected by these evaluators as a result of the use of these evaluation methods?

Accessing the Electronic Discussion

The electronic public discussion will be held from November 27, 2006 to January 26, 2007. We are beginning the

discussion 2 weeks after this notice is published in the **Federal Register** to give participants time to consider the questions and assemble any relevant information.

While anyone can access the discussion and read the comments, registration is required in order to participate in the discussion. You will be asked to register at the time you post your comment. The discussion will be accessible through a link on Plant Protection and Quarantine's Web page for the nursery stock revision, <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/Q37/revision.html>. Participants will be required to enter their name and e-mail address. Affiliation and mailing address are optional. Only the participant names will be publicly displayed; the other information will allow us to contact you to resolve technical difficulties or request additional information or clarification. When the discussion begins, there will be a link to access the discussion itself on the nursery stock revision Web page.

The discussion will be convened using IBM Domino software, which allows participants to upload and view files as well as make posts in the discussion. The IBM Domino software supports Microsoft Internet Explorer and other major Web browsers for both Windows and Macintosh systems. Technical support will be available during the discussion. There is no cost to participate in the discussion.

Because APHIS staff will review posts as they are submitted, there may be some delay between the submission of a post and its availability in the public discussion. Multiple APHIS staff members will be monitoring the discussion, and we will try to minimize any delays.

If you wish to submit comments or other information on the topics described in this notice, but you do not wish to be part of the electronic discussion, you may send your comments via postal mail or commercial delivery to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** at the beginning of this notice.

Done in Washington, DC, this 1st day of November 2006.

W. Ron DeHaven,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E6-18768 Filed 11-9-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P



WHAT: Eighth Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week
WHEN: February 25 to March 2, 2007
WHERE: Washington, D.C.
WHO: Organizations and Individuals who Support Invasive Weed Management and Ecosystem Restoration

The Eighth Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW 8) will be held in Washington, D.C. the week of **February 25 to March 2, 2007** to bring people and groups from across the country together to focus national attention on the severe impacts caused by invasive weeds. Individuals and organizations interested in this issue are invited to participate in this event and help build on the success of NIWAW activities in previous years. NIWAW 8 events are designed to focus on the important roles the Federal government must play to help the U.S. deal with invasive weed problems. We have also designed the schedule to provide ample time for attendees to meet with their Congressional delegations, individual federal agencies and each other.

NIWAW 8 Highlights

- Standing exhibits at the United States Botanic Garden Conservatory
- Sunday Kid's Fun Day Activities at the United States Botanic Garden Conservatory
- Sunday evening Orientation Session for First Time Attendees
- Monday morning breakfast and kickoff session on current national invasive weed issues.
- Tuesday and Wednesday briefings with the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and the Interior.
- Wednesday afternoon NGO Partnership Building Roundtable
- Wednesday evening reception at the United States Botanic Garden Conservatory for participants and our Washington allies to socialize in a pleasant and relaxed setting
- Thursday morning special meeting of FICMNEW (Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds)
- Briefing by the National Invasive Species Council on Thursday afternoon
- Special meetings with Federal Agencies on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons

NIWAW 8 is organized by the Invasive Weeds Awareness Coalition, a Washington D.C.-based coalition dedicated to increasing awareness of invasive weed problems and the associated research and management needs. Although some events during the week are open to the public, access to the full array of activities will require payment of a modest registration fee.

For More Details Please Visit The NIWAW 8 Website
http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm

Four Points by Sheraton Hotel
1201 K Street NW, Washington, DC is the Headquarters Hotel for NIWAW 8

For additional information on NIWAW 8 contact:
Dr. Nelroy Jackson (951-279-7787 or nelroyjackson@sbcglobal.net)

NIWAW 8 Registration Deadline: FEBRUARY 1, 2007
Hotel Reservations (202-289-7600) Deadline: JANUARY 25, 2007

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
January 20-25, 2007	Southern Weed Science Society Annual Conference	Opryland Hotel Nashville, Tennessee	Robert Schmidt raschwssa@aol.com
February 3-7, 2007	Southern Branch Meeting with the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists	Mobile, Alabama	www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/branch/southern/
February 5-10, 2007	WSSA Annual Meeting	Hyatt Regency on the Riverwalk San Antonio, Texas	Paul Baumann Tel: 979-845-4880 p-baumann@tamu.edu
February 7-8, 2007	InfoAg Midsouth	Starkville, Mississippi	www.infoag.org
February 20-21, 2007	InfoAg Northwest	Kennewick, Washington	www.infoag.org
February 25-March 2, 2007	NIWAW 8	Washington, D.C.	Dr. Nelroy Jackson Tel: 951-279-7787 nelroyjackson@sbcglobal.net http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm
March 3-5, 2007	Annual Meeting of the Southern Section of the American Society of Plant Biologists	Mobile, Alabama	http://www.ss-aspb.org/meetings07.html
March 11-13, 2007	4th Conference on Watershed Management to Meet Water Quality Standards and TMDL Issues	San Antonio, Texas	www.asabe.org/meetings/tmdl2007
March 13-15, 2007	Western Society of Weed Science Conference	Hilton Portland & Executive Tower Portland, Oregon	Phil Banks wsws@marathonag.com Tel: 505-527-1888
April 16-18, 2007	Resistance 2007 Conference	Rothamsted Research Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2JQ, UK	Resistance 2007 Conference Secretariat Office Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2JQ, UK Tel: (+44) (0) 1582 763133 Fax: (+44) (0) 1582 760981 rres.resistance@bbsrc.ac.uk www.rothamsted.ac.uk/Research/Resistance2007.html
April 22-27, 2007	2nd National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration (NCER)	Kansas City, Missouri	www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/NCER2007
May 22, 2007	59th International Symposium on Crop Protection	Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Ghent University Ghent, Belgium	Pieter /spanoghe, Secretary ISCP Department of Crop Protection Faculty of Bioscience Engineering Ghent University Coupure Links 653, B-9000 Ghent, Belgium iscp@ugent.be Tel: +32 9 264 6009 Fax: +32 9 264 6249 http://www.iscp.ugent.be
June 3-7, 2007	International Parasitic Plant Society (IPPS) Meeting: 9th World Congress on Parasitic Plants	Omni Hotel Charlottesville, Virginia USA	www.cpe.vt.edu/wcopp Jim Westwood (westwood@vt.edu)
July 9-13, 2007	Information Agriculture Conference (InfoAg 2007)	Springfield, Illinois	www.infoag.org
September 17-21, 2007	9th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions Weed Science Society of Western Australia	Perth, Australia	
December 10-13, 2007	NCWSS Annual Meeting	St. Louis, Missouri	http://www.ncwss.org/
February 4-7, 2008	WSSA Annual Meeting	Chicago, Illinois	www.wssa.net/
December 8-11, 2008	NCWSS Annual Meeting	Indianapolis, Indiana	http://www.ncwss.org/