

2021 WSSA Committee Report to Members  
Summary for 2020 and Action Plan for 2021

Committee Code and Name: P2 – Weed Science

Committee Chair: W.K. Vencill

Board Coordinator: Chris Willenborg

Committee Members Rotating Off:

Appropriate Replacements:

Franck Dayan

### 2020 Summary of Activities

This has been a challenging year for all. As all the processes for the journal are electronic, workflow disruptions for the journal have been minimal. The number of submissions and turnaround times have been similar to those of recent years. We are always appreciative of the efforts of reviewers and associate editors, but they deserve special kudos in a year like this past one.

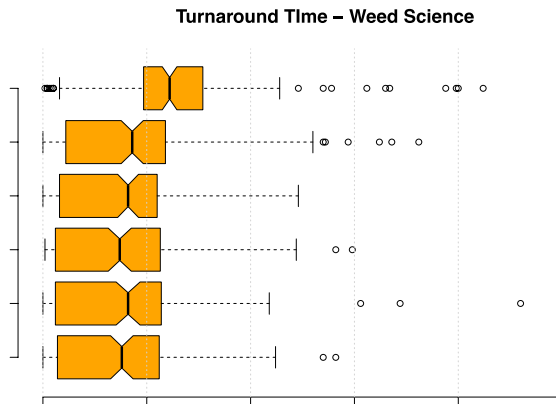
*Weed Science* continues to be one of the premier journals in the discipline and in the agronomic sciences. The editorial board and the staff strive to improve the efficiency of the publication process and improve the scope of the journal. *Weed Science* seeks to publish more reviews and symposium articles. This past year, *Weed Science* published a symposium series on the international view on herbicide bans and two reviews. For this coming year, we are excited about publishing a special issue on weedy rice and expanding the 2015 special issue on research methods.

The editorial board of *Weed Science* has agreed to comply with the entry level of the Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) guidelines for publishing.

For the 12 months preceding December 31, 2020, 229 manuscripts were submitted to *Weed Science* compared with 233 in the previous 12-month period. Of the manuscripts submitted,

43.8% were accepted compared with 36.4% the previous year. The time from submission to first decision was 36.9 d this past year compared to 35.6 days for the previous year.

Figure 1. Time from submission to first decision for the past five years showing the spread of the data (Vertical line in the box shows median time in days).



We are happy to report that the impact factor for *Weed Science* increased from 2.00 to 2.258 for this past year and the 5-year impact factor increased from 2.301 to 2.441.

For the year preceding October 1, 2020, the journal depended on 213 unique reviewers. The excellent reputation of the journal would not be possible without the cutting-edge research submitted by authors and the diligent work of the editorial board and the hundreds of referred reviews that are submitted annually. I wish to thank the members of the editorial board and reviewers for 2020. Franck Dayan and Vijay Nandula rotated off this past year.

**How much funds were requested? How much was spent?**

Editor's stipend.

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

Publication of scientific papers is a key activity of our society and is of benefit to numerous members.

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

2021 Plan for Committee Activities

Goals for 2021:

Make Weed Science the journal of first choice for weed scientists throughout the world. Continue the transition from Allen Press to Cambridge University Press.

We have implemented a new template for Weed Science to modernize the look of the journal. It incorporates more color and a coordinated look. The increased use of color photos and figures has improved the look and readability of individual articles. The journal has incorporated a new approach to using scientific names that is more in line with other journals where the emphasis is on the Latin binomial. The journal will try to implement a new template to assist authors and to standardize herbicide mechanism of action terms to be in alignment with WSSA usage.

The journal will continue to implement newest technologies available. We will explore feasibility to endorse aspects of the Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) guidelines for the journal (<http://cos.io/top>) as these will help the journal keep abreast of changes in the publishing world. CUP has tools available in this area as well. We are exploring ways to provide open data options to authors.

The marketing plan needs to make authors aware of the open access options in the journal.

Plan of Action:

Promote Weed Science as a high quality journal to the international science community. Review and publish submitted manuscripts in a timely manner. Recruit new Associate Editors.

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

Encourage all members to be active reviewers and to be timely in their reviews.

Recommendations for Board/Society Action:

Funds requested for 2021:

Editor's stipend.

Other requests for the Board:

Continue to recognize the dedicated work of the associate editors and reviewers.

Weed Science Associate Editors:

NEWSS

Hilary Sandler (2022)

SWSS

Carlene Chase (2022)  
Timothy Grey (2022)  
Muthu V. Bagavathiannan (2021)  
Ramon Leon (2021)  
Te-Ming Paul Tseng (2022)  
Nathan Boyd (2024)

NCWSS

Sharon Clay (2021)  
Pat Tranel (2023)  
Martin Williams (2021)  
Dean Riechers (2021)  
Mithila Jungulum (2022)  
Vipan Kumar (2024)

WSWS

Steven Seefeldt (2021)  
Chenxi Wu (2022)  
Ian Burke (2022)  
Prashant Jha (2022)  
Debalin Sarangi (2023)

CWSS

Sara Martin (2021)

Other Countries

Chris Preston (2021)  
B. Chauhan (2022)

\*The year in brackets denotes the year that they are due to rotate off this committee.