



WSSA Standing Committee Report

Committee Name and Code: Ad Hoc committee on Targeted and Autonomous Weed Control Technology

Committee Chair: Nathan Boyd

Committee Members (includes sub-committee members):

Committee composition can be found at ([WSSA Committee Roster](#)).

Nathan Boyd, Gregory Dahl, Stephen Fennimore, Lynn Sosnoskie, Karla Gage, Bryan Young, Marcelo Moretti, Lauren Lazaro, Luis De Avila, Muthu Bagavathiannan.

Board of Directors Liaison: Nathan Boyd

Committee members rotating off and recommended replacements: None

Summary of past year's activities including:

- Committee goals
 - Establish a targeted and autonomous weed control section at the annual WSSA meeting.
 - Create a comprehensive list of companies currently working on targeted weed management technologies.
 - Reach out to other organizations that work on targeted and autonomous weed control technologies to promote collaboration with the WSSA.
 - Organize a symposium on Targeted and Autonomous Weed Control Technologies at the 2025 annual meeting.
- Committee accomplishments
 - We established a new, highly successful, section focused on targeted and autonomous weed control at the annual WSSA meeting and this section continues in 2025.
 - We provided the WSSA leadership with a list of all companies currently working on targeted weed management technologies.
 - We have reached out to other organizations to promote collaboration with the WSSA with an initial focus on members of the ASABE.
 - We proposed a symposium on Targeted and Autonomous Weed Control Technologies but opted to wait until 2026.
- Impact of committee activities/accomplishments on membership, publications, policy, education, other, etc.

The committee established a new section with significant attendance resulting in standing room only throughout the entire section.

The committee assembled a list by category of companies working on targeted and autonomous weed control technologies. Although this list has not yet been widely distributed, we hope to have it posted on the website in 2025 with the intent to stimulate interest and collaboration.

- WSSA funds requested if any?

In 2024, we were awarded funds but opted not to use them. In 2025, we intend to organize a symposium and invite presenters that are not currently members of WSSA. We would like to request up to \$1,000 for travel reimbursement for 4 symposium participants for a total of \$4,000.

In addition, we would like to send 2 committee members to meetings at other societies that work on targeted and autonomous weed control to give a presentation on the WSSA and our work on novel technologies with the intent to foster collaboration and membership within the WSSA. Total funds requested for this activity will be ((\$3,000)

- Current state of the committee's projects or activities?

Some activities are on-going. Please see list below.

- Any new information posted on the WSSA website?

None in 2024

Summary of plans for next year (changes in goals, key initiatives, plan of action, etc.): Recommendations for Board or Membership action (funds¹ or other requests):

Plans and objectives for the 2025 year are as follows:

1. We would like to recommend to the WSSA Board of Directors that the Ad Hoc committee become a standing committee of the WSSA. This request is based on rapid growth in the number of talks, presentations, and posters in this topic area at regional meetings and growing interest within WSSA as evidenced by the attendance at the section in 2024. The rapid expansion in the number of companies working in this area also suggests this area of research will continue to grow and expand and it is our opinion that the WSSA needs to provide leadership in this research area.
2. If the request is approved to make this a standing committee, we would move to establish a permanent structure, featuring a newly elected chair and a rotating three-year membership term.
3. The committee will request funding from the WSSA and select two members of the committee to use that funding to visit national meetings such as the ASABE to promote the society and collaboration with scientists working on targeted or autonomous technologies.
4. The committee will organize a symposium for 2026 and request funding to bring in experts outside of the WSSA to participate in the symposium.
5. The committee will update the list of companies working on targeted and autonomous weed management technologies.

¹If requesting funds, please fill out the WSSA Project Proposal Form and submit at the same time as the WSSA Committee Report.