

WASHINGTON REPORT

January 3, 2020

Lee Van Wychen

Weed Science Societies Comment on EPA's Interim Process for Evaluating Potential Synergistic Effects of Pesticides during the Registration Process

Since 2015, EPA has used an interim process to evaluate the potential synergistic effects of 24 new active ingredient registrations due to patent office claims by registrants. None of these reviews have ultimately impacted an existing EPA ecological risk assessment. The results from the analysis of the first 24 active ingredients reflects that there is a low probability that claims asserting greater than additive (GTA) effects will impact ecological risk assessments for pesticide active ingredients. Therefore, the National and Regional Weed Science Societies support EPA's plans to evaluate the results of the interim process, and once a sufficient number of reviews are completed, to decide whether continuing the process has utility in evaluating ecological risk associated with product use. If the outcome of EPA's future evaluation demonstrates that the interim process does not have utility in evaluating ecological risk associated with product use, our societies agree that EPA and registrants should not exhaust additional time and resources in this endeavor and suspend evaluations. [The National and Regional Weed Science Society comments are available here.](#)

WSSA Comments on Paraquat

The WSSA provided comments on the value and uniqueness of paraquat for weed management. We strongly support further education and awareness activities both on the label and through training. [Read the full comment on 'Registration review; Availability: Paraquat Dichloride Draft Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments'.](#)

Congress Reaches FY 2020 Budget Deal

After months of delay, Congress passed a much-anticipated deal to fund the government through the end of FY 2020, which runs through September 30, 2020. The \$1.4 trillion package of discretionary spending bills, which was divided up into two "minibuses", was finally delivered just before the holiday break after months of rigorous debate. The first minibus (H.R. 1865) included eight of the twelve appropriations bills, all covering domestic policy. The second minibus (H.R. 1158) was a four bill package focused on national security. The first minibus includes funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

2015 WOTUS Rule Repealed

On September 12, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works R.D. James announced the repeal of the Obama administration's Clean Water Rule, better known as the Waters of the United States rule, or WOTUS. The 2015 rule has never fully taken effect because there have been multiple court challenges. The repeal formally restores the previous regulatory regime

nationwide until the Trump administration releases its own rule to deal with the issue of conflicting Supreme Court rulings on WOTUS.

In December 2018, EPA and the Army Corp proposed a new definition that would clearly define where federal jurisdiction begins and ends in accordance with the Clean Water Act and Supreme Court precedent. After a public comment period this spring, the proposed new WOTUS definitions are expected to be finalized this winter.

USDA-NIFA Appoints 6 National Science Liaisons

The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s (NIFA) program portfolio and contact with their stakeholders, partners, and collaborators in Washington DC will continue, uninterrupted with the creation of six National Science Liaisons (NSLs). These six NSL’s have already been selected and will support NIFA’s national research, education, and extension portfolio; advance NIFA programs; and serve as expert resources. They are:

Mathieu (Mat) Ngouajio, Ph.D. – plant production and protection, organic farming

Eric Norland, Ph.D. – natural resources and environment

Bradley K. Rein P.E. – sustainable agricultural systems, technology, economics and social sciences

Caroline E. Crocoll, Ph.D., CFCS – human sciences and 4H

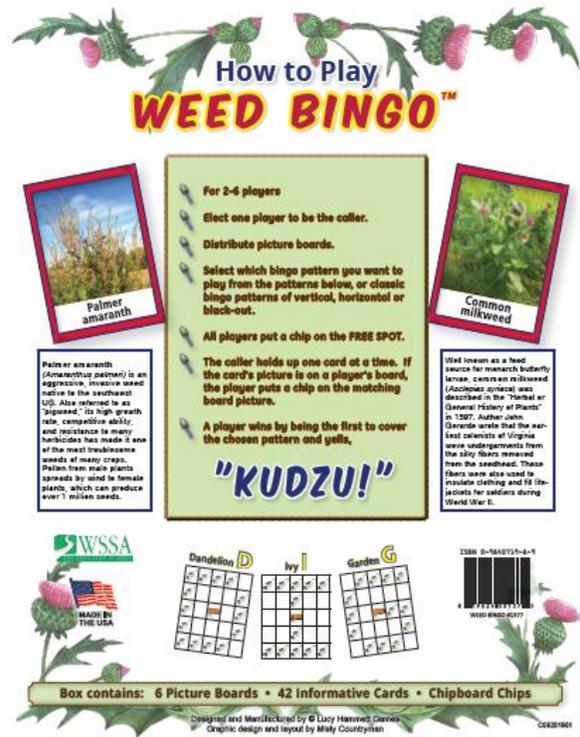
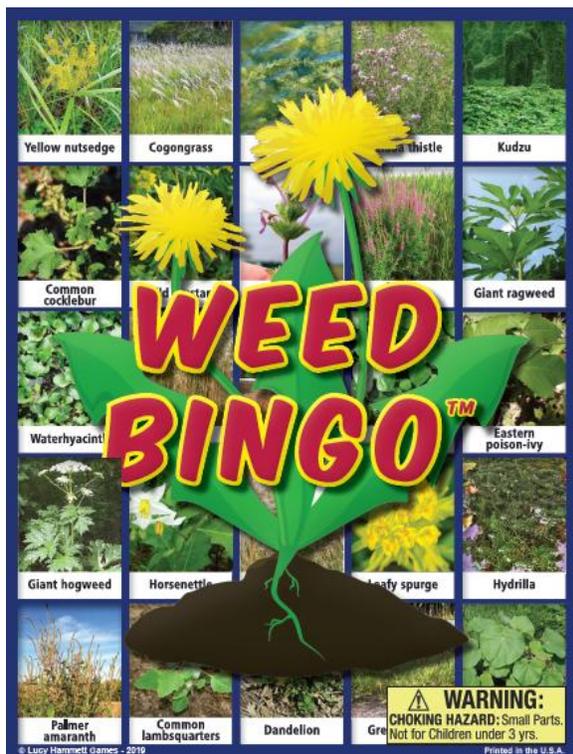
Mark Mirando, Ph.D. – animal health and production

Mervalin Morant, Ph.D. – food safety, nutrition and minority serving institutions

WEED BINGO Now Available for Purchase!

WEED BINGO is a fun game that blends a bit of science with interesting and unusual facts about some of North America’s most common and troublesome weeds. Each of the 42 weed cards included in the game includes the common and scientific name of a weed, a photo and a brief description.

WEED BINGO would make a great holiday gift! The games are a fun educational tool that will help raise awareness about weeds and invasive plants in managed and natural ecosystems.



WEED BINGO is produced by the Weed Science Society of America, with support from the Aquatic Plant Management Society, North Central Weed Science Society, Northeastern Weed Science Society, **Southern Weed Science Society** and Western Society of Weed Science. Each game is \$14.95 + \$5 shipping and handling for domestic shipping.

To purchase a game, please go to: <https://wssa.memberclicks.net/books>

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Science Policy
National and Regional Weed Science Societies