

## Northeastern Weed Science Society Newsletter

### November 2000

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*Plan to Attend the 55<sup>th</sup> NEWSS Annual Meeting  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
January 2-5, 2001*

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### Comments from the President

The 55<sup>th</sup> NEWSS annual meeting will be held January 2-5, 2001 at the Boston Marriott Cambridge Hotel in Cambridge, MA. Because January 1 is a Monday, the 2001 annual meeting will be held Tuesday through Friday, not the traditional Monday through Thursday. Again, NEWSS will meet jointly with the Northeast Region – American Society of Horticultural Science. Dave Mayonado, NEWSS Vice President and Program Chair, and the section chairs have put together an excellent program that includes 107 papers. The keynote address at the Wednesday general session given by Robert Zaremba of The Nature Conservancy and the papers at the Thursday general symposium will feature this year's annual meeting theme, "Invasive Plants: A Growing Problem."

The Cambridge Marriott is located at 2 Cambridge Center at the corner of Broadway and Third St. in Cambridge. Simpler stated, the hotel is located adjacent to the Kendall / MIT "T" station on a Boston/Cambridge map. The Marriott features a full-service restaurant, sports bar, lobby lounge, indoor pool and health club. Adjoining the hotel is a food court and within a five-minute walk are cafes, brewpubs, and several restaurants including a "Legal Seafood".

Room rates at the Cambridge Marriott are \$89 per night, single or double. Hospitality suites are available for \$159 per night. When you call Marriott for room reservations (**800-228-9290**) make sure to mention you are attending the Northeastern Weed Science Society meeting to receive the discounted room rates. The cut-off date for these room rates is **December 18, 2000**. If you call prior to the cut-off date and do not receive the \$89 room rate, call me (315-781-0140) or email me (bdolson@dowagro.com) and I will help you out. Make sure you call before the December 18<sup>th</sup> deadline otherwise non-discounted room rates at this hotel can be as high as \$325 per night. Parking is \$18 per day at the parking garage next-to the Marriott, and valet parking is \$20 per day. The hotel valet parking is limited to 50 cars.

Because of the greater number of graduate student papers, NEWSS has resurrected the "Graduate Student Seminar and Social Mixer" at the 2001 meeting. The session, featuring talks on career opportunities, will be held Thursday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 PM in Salon IV (2<sup>nd</sup> level), and is open **ONLY** to undergraduate and graduate students and their advisors. Pizza and soda will be available during the session.

As you know, the entire agricultural industry and

## 2001 NEWSS ANNUAL MEETING

weed science profession is enduring many changes. In the last year the NEWSS executive committee has discussed the following topics about change within the society: 2 vs. 3-day annual meetings; use of computer projection equipment; joint meetings with North Central Weed Science Society, Northeast region – American Society of Horticultural Science, Potomac and/or Northeast Division of the American Phytopathological Society, Eastern Branch – Entomological Society of America, and/or Invasive Plant groups; outreach programs for the nursery and turfgrass associations; Certified Crop Advisor credits; and NEWSS website webmaster for 2001. As a result of this long list of topics, the Executive Committee instructed me to form an ad hoc committee to address the topic of “Change within NEWSS”. The following individuals have volunteered to serve on this committee: Joe Neal (chair), Robin Bellinder, Rich Bonanno, Tracey Harpster, Dan Ramsdell and Garry Schnappinger. In my presidential address “Traditions versus Change” I will discuss some of the issues that face our society in the coming years. I have also asked Joe Neal to speak at the annual business meeting about the goals and expectations of the ad hoc committee on “Change within NEWSS”.

Finally, I want to thank each Executive Committee member and Officer of NEWSS for the extra time and effort they have committed to the society over the past year. Because of your dedication and hard work you have made my job as President rewarding and fun.

*Brian Olson, NEWSS President*

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### NEWSS Web Site

<http://www.ppws.vt.edu/newss/newss.htm>

Many thanks to Ivan Morozov, our excellent "webmaster" at Virginia Tech! Be sure to check the web site frequently for valuable NEWSS information and for links to other weed science societies and agricultural news sites.

The program for the upcoming 2001 meeting is complete and this year's theme will be “Invasive Plants - A Growing Problem”. We have a full program with 86 papers and 23 posters being presented. Our general symposium held Thursday afternoon will explore issues related to Invasive Plants. We will also have a special symposium on Friday morning, January 5<sup>th</sup> on Forest Vegetation Management led by Dr. Bob Wagner from the Univ. of Maine. As in the last 2 years, we will be joined by the Northeast Region of the American Society for Horticultural Science. They too will be presenting papers and posters that we may find interesting and will be joining us for our mixer. Members of the New England Invasive Plants Group will also join us.

We have five invited speakers to participate in our “Invasive Plants” symposium. They will address issues from state and federal responses to invasive plants to the impact of the internet on their commercial availability and movement. Leading the symposium and delivering our keynote address will be Bob Zaremba, the Nature Conservancy's Eastern Division Ecologist. He will speak on a broad range of issues concerning invasive plants on a national level. Dr. Alison Fox from the Univ. of Florida will speak about the issues Florida has encountered and how they dealt with them at the state level. Dr. Les Mehrhoff from the Univ. of Connecticut will speak about the characteristics certain plants possess that make them particularly invasive. Rob Hedberg will discuss what is happening in Washington concerning invasive plants, and Dr. Stratford Kay will present some interesting research he has done on the impact of the internet on the commercial availability and movement of invasive plants.

I would like to thank our section chairs for their assistance in developing the program and for their commitment to serving the society during the meeting. On behalf of the section chairs, I strongly encourage active participation in each of the sessions, as they are only as informative and interesting as we make them. Please travel safely throughout the holidays and to the meeting. See you in Cambridge.

*Dave Mayonado, Program Chair*

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*Tuesday, January 2, 2001*

3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Coolidge (Level 3)

*Friday, January 5, 2001*

6:30 a.m.-7:00 a.m. Breakfast, Concierge Level  
7:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Meeting, Coolidge (Level 3)  
(Old and New Members)

### **NE-92 COMMITTEE**

*Tuesday, January 2, 2001*

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Dana (Level 3)

### **PHOTO JUDGING COMMITTEE**

*Tuesday, January 2, 2001*

5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Longfellow (Level 3)

### **AWARDS COMMITTEE**

*Tuesday, January 2, 2001*

6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Coolidge (Level 3)

### **STUDENT PAPER JUDGING COMMITTEE**

*Tuesday, January 2, 2001*

6:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Coolidge (Level 3)

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

*Tuesday, January 2, 2001*

5:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Salon IV (Section Chairs and Chair Elects)

### **POSTER JUDGING COMMITTEE**

*Wednesday, January 3, 2001*

7:30 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Ballroom Foyer

### **WEED SCIENCE FIELD DAY**

*Wednesday, January 3, 2001*

5:15 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Salon I & II

### **COLLEGIATE WEED CONTEST**

*Wednesday, January 3, 2001*

5:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Salon I & II

## **PAST PRESIDENTS' BREAKFAST**

*Thursday, January 4, 2001*

6:30 a.m.-7:00 a.m. Parmizzano's Restaurant  
7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Longfellow (Level 3)

### **NEWSS REGISTRATION**

*Tuesday, January 2, 2001*

4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Registration Desk

*Wednesday, January 3, 2001*

7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Registration Desk

*Thursday, January 4, 2001*

7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Registration Desk

*Friday, January 5, 2001*

9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Registration Desk

## **CONDENSED MEETING PROGRAM**

### ***TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2001***

4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Drop off photos for photo contest at the Registration Desk  
7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Speaker's Preparation Room Dana (Level 3)  
6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Research Posters & Commercial Displays Set-Up Ballroom Foyer

### ***WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2001***

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Speaker's Preparation Room Dana (Level 3)  
7:30 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Poster Judging Committee Mtg. Ballroom Foyer  
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Job Placement and Press Room Behind Registration Desk  
8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Research Posters (Authors present) & Commercial Displays Ballroom Foyer  
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. General Session Salon III  
1:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Research Posters (Authors not present) & Commercial Displays Ballroom Foyer

1:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m.	Agronomy Salon III	1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	General Symposium: “Invasive Plants” Salon III
1:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	Ornamentals Salon IV	4:15 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	NEWSS Annual Business Mtg. Salon III
1:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m.	Industrial, Forestry, and Conservation Salon I & II	4:15 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	NE-ASHS Poster Session Salon Foyer
3:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m.	Biologically-based Weed Control Salon I & II	5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	NEWSS Research Posters and Commercial Displays Breakdown
5:15 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Weed Science Field Days Meeting Salon I & II	6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Graduate Student Program and Mixer Salon IV
5:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.	Collegiate Weed Contest Meeting Salon I & II		
6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Social Mixer Salon III		

***FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2001***

<b><i>THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2001</i></b>		6:30 a.m.-7:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Breakfast (Old and New) Concierge Level
6:30 a.m.-7:00 a.m.	Past Presidents Breakfast Parmizzano’s Restaurant	7:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting (Old and New) Longfellow (Level 3)
7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.	Past Presidents Meeting Longfellow (Level 3)	7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Speaker’s Preparation Room Dana (Level 3)
7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Speaker's Preparation Room Dana (Level 3)	8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Job Placement and Press Room Behind Registration Desk
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Job Placement and Press Room Behind Registration Desk	8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	NE-ASHS Breakfast and Business Meeting Salon VII
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Research Posters (Authors not present) & Commercial Displays Ballroom Foyer	8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Agronomy Salon III
8:15 a.m.-11:30 p.m.	Vegetables and Fruit Salon I & II	8:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.	Forest Vegetation Management Symposium Salon IV
8:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Agronomy Salon III	10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	Northeast Region - ASHS, Paper Session II Salon V & VI
8:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	Turfgrass and Plant Growth Regulators Salon IV	12:00 p.m.	NE-ASHS Research Posters Breakdown
8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Northeast Region - ASHS, Paper Session I Salon V & VI	12:00 p.m.	Adjournment

## **Section Chairs for the 2001 NEWSS Annual Meeting**

Listed below are the section chairs for the 55th Annual Meeting of NEWSS to be held January 2-5, 2001 at the Boston Marriott Cambridge.

### **Program Chair**

David Mayonado  
Monsanto Company  
6075 Westbrooke Dr., Salisbury, MD 21801  
Phone: 410-726-4222 / Fax: 410-219-3202  
Email: david.j.mayonado@monsanto.com

### **Agronomy Section**

Chair: Paul Stachowski  
Cornell University, Leland Field House  
Caldwell Road, Ithaca, NY 14853  
Phone: 607-255-7701 / Fax: 607-255-6143  
Email: pjs16@cornell.edu

### **Biologically-based Weed Control**

Chair: William Bruckart  
USDA-ARS-FDWSRU  
1301 Ditto Ave., Fort Detrick, MD 21702  
Phone: 301-619-2846 / Fax: 301-619-2880  
Email: bruckart@asrr.arsusda.gov

### **Industrial, Forestry, and Conservation**

Chair: Robert Wagner  
University of Maine  
5755 Nutting Hall, Orono, ME 04469  
Phone: 207-581-2903 / Fax: 207-581-2833  
Email: bob\_wagner@umenfa.maine.edu

### **Ornamentals**

Chair: Mark Czarnota  
Cornell University, Dept. of FOH  
49D Plant Science Bldg., Ithaca, NY 14853  
Phone: 607-255-0884 / Fax: 607-255-9998  
Email: mac30@cornell.edu

### **Poster Section**

Chair: Annamarie Pennucci  
NE Turf & Ornamental Research  
4 Englewood Drive, Raymond, NH 03077  
Phone: 603-895-8480 / Fax: 603-672-6332

### **Turfgrass and Plant Growth Regulators**

Chair: Stephen Hart  
Rutgers University, Plant Science Dept.  
Furan Hall, 59 Dudley Rd., New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Phone: 732-932-9773 x 166  
Email: hart@aesop.rutgers.edu

### **Vegetables and Fruit**

Chair: Thomas Bewick  
USDA-CSREES-PAS, NPL-Horticulture  
Mailstop 2220  
Washington, DC 20250-2220  
Phone: 202-401-3356 / Fax: 202-401-4888  
Email: TBEWICK@intranet.reeusda.gov

## **NEWSS Registration Policy**

Enclosed is the pre-registration form for the 2001 Annual Meeting. *Note that one side of the form is only for Distinguished Members of NEWSS.* Please fill out the proper side of the form entirely and send with check payable to NEWSS. The pre-registration fee (when mailed by **DECEMBER 15, 2000**) is \$20 less than the on-site registration fee. Please pay by cash or check - credit cards can not be accepted.

## **Hotel Room Reservations**

Hotel rooms at **The Boston Marriott Cambridge** can be reserved by calling Marriott's reservation number: **800-228-9290**. In order to get our greatly reduced conference rates for January 2-5, 2001, be sure to mention that you are attending the **Northeastern Weed Science Society** meeting. Daily room rate for our annual meeting is \$89 for single or double occupancy, and the rate for hospitality suites (including parlor and bedroom) is \$159 per day. Total room taxes amount to 12.5%. If you need to reach the hotel directly, dial 617-494-6600.

***DECEMBER 18, 2000 is the deadline to make room reservations.***

## **Student Room Reimbursement**

To be eligible for reimbursement of room charges incurred at the annual meeting, participants in the NEWSS Student Paper Contest **MUST** follow the procedures outlined below:

- A. The title submission form must denote that the student wants the presentation judged by the committee.
- B. This form must clearly show which student will present the paper in the case of multiple authors.
- C. At the meeting, the awards chairperson will provide a list of the students who have been judged.
- D. Participating students will be compensated at one-half the rate charged for a room, based on double occupancy, for each night the student is registered at the Cambridge Marriott. Reimbursement will be made at the NEWSS registration table upon presentation of a paid hotel room receipt.

## Transportation and Parking

Driving to the Cambridge Marriott can be complicated depending on the direction from which you approach the Boston metropolitan area. The Marriott is located at 2 Cambridge Center on Broadway, and is very close to the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

*Legal restrictions on reproducing copyrighted maps prevents presentation of such maps in our newsletter.* Detailed maps and driving instructions can be obtained from the MapQuest.com web site ([www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com)) or the Marriott web site ([marriotthotels.com/BOSCB/](http://marriotthotels.com/BOSCB/)). Enter your starting location, and enter 2 Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142 as your destination. The entrance to the Marriott is on Broadway between 6<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets.

Valet parking is available for \$20/day. Parking is also available in a public garage next to the Marriott on a per hour basis. The daily rate in the garage is \$18/day. The entrance to the garage is on Broadway after crossing 6<sup>th</sup> Street (just before the Marriott entrance).

From Logan International Airport in Boston, taxicab service is readily available. Also, the subway system ("The T") is a very economical means of getting from the airport to the Cambridge Marriott. The Kendall/MIT "T" station is adjacent to the Marriott.

Another possible transportation option is train service, including the brand new high-speed rail service between Washington, D.C. and Boston. Check with Amtrak (800-872-7245) for information on schedules and fares.

## Commercial Displays

All Sustaining Members of NEWSS are eligible and encouraged to participate in the Commercial Display Session that will start Wednesday morning, January 3 2001 at the annual meeting in Cambridge. This session is held in conjunction with the Poster Display Session. Displays can remain up until Friday. This is an excellent opportunity to inform the membership of new services, products and labels.

Table space can be reserved by contacting the Sustaining Membership Chairman:

Carroll Moseley, Novartis Crop Protection, P.O. Box 18300, Greensboro, NC 27419. Phone: 336-632-7754; Email: [carroll.moseley@cp.novartis.com](mailto:carroll.moseley@cp.novartis.com)

## Placement Service

The NEWSS provides a placement service for members at the annual meeting each year. This service is open to any institution or commercial firm seeking employees as well as individuals desiring positions. See the page inserted in this newsletter for "Position Available" and "Position Desired" forms.

The forms will be available for inspection at the placement service desk during the annual meeting in Cambridge. After that date, the forms will be forwarded to the WSSA placement service chairperson.

## Rules for the NEWSS Photo Contest

Photographs may be submitted in slide, print, or electronic media. **If submission is in electronic format it is the responsibility of the contestant to provide a means for viewing the image(s).**

- Contest is open only to members of the NEWSS.
- Subject of photo is to be any photogenic subject that is associated with Weed Science.
- Each contestant may enter up to 5 photographs, but can win only one prize.
- Prints should be no smaller than 35 sq. in. or no larger than 80 sq. in. Prints should be mounted.
- Slides must be in a 2" X 2" mount that will fit in a standard carousel slide tray and should be labeled as to which side goes toward the screen.
- All photographs should be labeled with name and address. Prints should have a business card that will be attached to the mat for display after judging.
- The Photo Contest Committee will judge the Contest.
- Judges will consider factors such as;
  - a subject,
  - b composition,
  - c technical aspects, and
  - d overall appeal.
- Prizes include certificates and \$100 for first, \$50 for second, and \$25 for third.
- Contestant does not have to be present to win.
- Entries will be returned to the owner after the Contest.

Photo entries may be submitted in person to the Photo Contest room in the Marriott no later than **5:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 2, 2001**. Entries may also be mailed to the Awards Committee Chair with delivery scheduled no later than **December 15, 2000**:

A. Richard Bonanno  
UMass Extension  
255 Merrimack Street  
Methuen, MA 01844

## **Note to Students Competing in the NEWSS Student Paper Contest**

In order to insure standardization of visual presentation technology in the student contest, the NEWSS Executive Committee voted to require students entered in the 2001 paper contest in Cambridge to use only 2" x 2" slides and the slide projector provided in the room. This policy, instituted to promote fairness in judging student presentations, will be re-evaluated after the 2001 annual meeting.

### **People in the News**

Belated congratulations to **Bradley A. Majek** of Rutgers University on his being elected Vice President of the Weed Science Society of America! Brad was NEWSS President in 1995-96.

**Thomas Bewick** has begun a new position at USDA's Cooperative State Research, Extension and Education Service (CSREES) in Washington, DC. Tom was previously at the Univ. of Massachusetts Cranberry Experiment Station in East Wareham, MA.

**Eric Gallandt** recently joined the Department of Plant, Soil and Environmental Sciences at the University of Maine as Assistant Professor of Weed Ecology and Management. He will focus on soil-improving management practices, resultant changes in soil quality, and weed population dynamics. He will also teach in the area of sustainable agriculture. Eric was most recently an assistant professor at Washington State University.

### **Articles for NEWSS NEWS**

Please submit articles for the NEWSS newsletter to Todd Mervosh, Public Relations Representative. I prefer that information is sent to my email address: [tmervosh@caes.state.ct.us](mailto:tmervosh@caes.state.ct.us). Otherwise, send a hard copy, plus the file stored on diskette to:

Todd Mervosh, Connecticut Agr. Exp. Stn., 153 Cook Hill Road, P.O. Box 248, Windsor, CT 06095.

Submission deadline for the next issue of the NEWSS newsletter (April 2001) is March 23, 2001.

## **Candidate for NEWSS Vice-President**

***Scott Glenn***



D. Scott Glenn was raised in Southwestern Ohio. He attended the University of Kentucky and earned his B.S. degree in 1976 in Agronomy. In 1979 he earned a Ph.D. in Weed Science under the advisement of Dr. Charlie Rieck at the University of Kentucky. Scott has worked since 1980 at the University of Maryland as a Weed Scientist in the Natural Resource Sciences Department with a research and teaching appointment. His research has focused on perennial weed control in no-tillage field crop production and the mode of action of herbicides. He has over 140 publications on these subjects. Since 1980, Scott has taught Weed Science and Herbicide Chemistry and Physiology. In recent years he has also taught Forages, Crop Science, and Senior Seminar.

Scott received the University of Maryland Agriculture Alumni Outstanding Researcher Award in 1980, the Dean of Agriculture's Teaching Award in 1988 and the Northeast Agronomy Branch Outstanding Teaching Award in 2000. Scott has been an active member in the Weed Science Society of America since 1976 and the Northeastern Weed Science Society since 1980. He has served on numerous WSSA and NEWSS committees, and was on the NEWSS Executive Board as Editor from 1997 to 1999. Scott is currently serving as Associate Editor of *Weed Technology*.

## Legislative Committee Report

### FQPA/Pesticide Issues Update

USDA/EPA Committee To Advise on Reassessment and Transition (CARAT) - held their second public meeting October 11 and 12. Electronic information about CARAT is posted at the following EPA www site: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/carat>. This meeting was attended by WSSA Director of Science Policy, Rob Hedberg and NEWSS Past President Rich Bonanno. Some notes from the meeting:

- Reasonable transition, and that pest management is a top priority at USDA.
- EPA noted that major decisions have been made on major products and "the sky has not fallen". They are on track to complete the individual reviews of the organophosphate pesticides.
- There will be two workgroups formed, one to deal with transition issues and the 2nd to deal with cumulative risk.
- An important issue emerging is the channel of trade policy. EPA wants to revoke tolerances 180 days after the last legal use. Section 408 L(5) of FFDCA says the commodity is legal as long as it was treated before the use was canceled. This creates challenges for the food producers and food processors. They are concerned that a product in the channels of trade could become not sellable, even though it is legal.
- Rich Bonanno emphasized that pest management is all about controlling pests. Success stories on transition are great but can't be directly applied to every crop in every region. New products are good but growers need access to commercial scale testing before they can use these new products. He said we are already losing American growers and people aren't even noticing.

HR 1592, The Regulatory Fairness and Openness Act of 1999, introduced by Rep. Richard Pombo, CA, to address the shortcomings of FQPA, is allegedly stalled by key congressional Republicans fearful of being labeled "anti-environmentalist". Rep. Thomas Billey, Virginia Republican who chairs the House Commerce Committee provided the explanation to an American Bar Association panel in July. He pointed out that the administration is opposed and environmental community is opposed, thus the prospects of the bill becoming law are slight in 2000.

Pombo's rewrite of the Food Quality Protection Act has mobilized a solid House majority with 235 of the House's 435 members signed on as co-sponsors. General consensus is that parts of the law are not workable and need to be changed. Pombo's legislation would revise the 1996 law, in part by imposing more hurdles before

pesticides could be banned. Pombo still insists this measure could get action this year.

**Source: Agricultural Insider, September 29, 2000**

USDA recently released its first ever national survey on organic production. Farmers in 49 states reported 1.3 million acres certified for organic production in 1997. Over 66% of this area was in eight states; CA, CO, ID, IA, MN, MT, ND and WI. California producers grew nearly half of all organic vegetables. Vermont has the highest percentage of vegetable crops certified organic.

**Source: Agricultural Insider, September 29, 2000**

EPA has announced that the comment period has ended and several Re-registration Eligibility Decision (RED) Documents are available for the herbicides EPTC and pebulate and are posted at <http://www.epa.gov/REDS/>. Paper copies should be available for a fee from the EPA National Technical Information Service (NTIS) at 800-553-6847.

### Biotechnology Update

The Council of Agriculture Science and Technology (CAST) issued a position statement on Food and Agricultural Biotechnology on September 30, 2000. CAST believes that all technologies including biotechnology must be evaluated in light of the consequences from their implementation or from their non-implementation, and must be compared to the safety of alternative technologies. Evaluations of safety and risk must be placed into the context of current and historical practices, as well as of benefits to human, animal, and environmental health. CAST further believes that sound scientific practices should be considered at each stage of development and implementation to maintain a safe, affordable, ample food and fiber supply throughout the world, while allowing food to be grown in ways that minimize challenges to our limited environmental and human resources.

THEREFORE, CAST strongly urges that scientifically based information be made available to the public. CAST urges its member societies and other members of the scientific community to take an active role in discussions on biotechnology and to respond to questions and concerns in understandable terms and with respect for different cultures and belief systems. CAST advocates the responsible exploration of the potential applications of biotechnology and encourages responsible research, development, and implementation of biotechnology advancements. CAST advocates a careful, objective, science-based evaluation of

technologies and products of biotechnology through continuous testing, safety assessments for reasonably foreseeable risks, continued implementation of appropriate bio-safety and environmental controls, frequent review of safety evaluation procedures, and economic and benefits assessments. Finally, CAST urges the use of science-based evaluations in regulatory and public policy decision-making.

The discovery of Starlink genetically altered BT corn in the nation's food supply raises some questions that will challenge the biotech industry. This variety of corn, which is cleared for animal feed only but discovered in several human food products, contains the Cry9C protein. This protein takes about 30 minutes to break down in gastric juices, about four times as long as for other BT corn varieties. Some scientists think the ability to withstand breakdown is an indication of its ability to cause an allergic reaction. On a related note, the European Commission has expressed concern about whether U.S. regulations are adequate to stop bioengineered grains from getting into exports to nations concerned about gene-spliced foods.

### **Invasive Species**

The Interior Department Seeks Public Comments by November 16 on a Draft Plan, Titled: "*National Invasive Species Management Plan - Meeting the Challenge*". The draft plan is intended to prevent and control invasive species to minimize their economic, ecological and human health impacts. The Council is co-chaired by the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce and the Interior; and includes the Departments of State, Transportation, the Treasury and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Plan seeks to address invasive species in the areas of prevention, coordination, control, rapid response, monitoring, and information sharing. Contact: [Kelsey\\_Passe@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Kelsey_Passe@ios.doi.gov) for additional information.

The U.S. Government Accounting Office (GAO) has issued a report noting that the federal government has spent more than a half billion dollars in two years to fight invasive species. The GAO report criticized the Invasive Species Council by noting that only two of the four staff positions have been filled and the National Invasive Species Management Plans is several months overdue.

### **Miscellaneous/State News:**

An adult-onset diabetes link with Agent Orange used in Vietnam was reported in a study released October 11 by

the Institute of Medicine of the US National Academies.

A news release notes: *'Using the latest scientific studies, the committee that wrote the report re-evaluated whether exposure to the chemical defoliant Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam, some of which contained dioxin, was linked in any way with the development of adult-onset diabetes. The re-evaluation found new 'limited or suggestive' evidence of an association, but the finding is not conclusive. Previous IOM reports had said that there was 'inadequate or insufficient' evidence to determine whether a link existed.'* - A copy of the IOM News Release, from which access to the report is available, is posted at the following www site:

<http://www4.nationalacademies.org/news.nsf/isbn/0309071984?OpenDocument>

Colien Hefferan has been appointed as the new administrator of USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). She assumed her new duties on October 7, 2000. She will be very influential as CSREES is a key player in many University research areas.

The U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have approved Agriculture Appropriation for fiscal year 2001. The Bill appropriates \$79 billion for agriculture programs. The bill also eases a 38-year ban on the sale of U.S. food and medicine to Cuba. However, it denies Cubans access to U.S. credit for financing purchases. The Agricultural Research Service was given \$899 million, \$55 million more than originally proposed by the House. CSREES was given \$506 million that included \$106 million for competitive grants plus many special grants. Integrated activities were funded at \$42 million. This area includes funding for water quality (\$13 million), food safety (\$15 million), pesticide impact assessment (\$4.5 million), FQPA crops at risk (\$1.5 million), FQPA risk mitigation program for major crops (\$4.9 million), methyl bromide transition programs (\$2.5 million) and organic transition programs (\$0.5 million).

As of March 1, 2001, counties throughout New York State can require commercial pesticide applicators to give 48-hour warning to homeowners living within 150 feet of a property scheduled for spraying. A bill signed into law August 21 by Gov. Pataki outlined the new requirements.

*Jerry Baron, Legislative Committee Chair*

## The 2000 NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest

The NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest was held on August 1, 2000 in Ontario at the University of Guelph. Francois Tardif served as coordinator of the contest. The following is his report:

Rain, thunder and lightning did not prevent the 2000 Northeastern Collegiate Weed Science Contest from taking place. The University of Guelph hosted the event at the Elora Research Station. Francois Tardif of the Department of Plant Agriculture chaired the organizing committee with help from Mike Cowbrough, Shane Diebold, Peter Smith, Kevin Chandler, Nancy DeSousa, Nancy Cain and Ian MacDonald. We are grateful to many others from industry and public sector that jumped in so that, on the day of the event, more than 40 volunteers were on hand to make sure everything went smoothly.

A total of 58 students (28 undergraduates and 30 graduates) represented these 10 schools: Cornell University, University of Delaware, University of Kentucky, University of Maryland, North Carolina State University, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Ohio State University, Penn State University, SUNY-Cobleskill, and Virginia Tech.

Despite the extra difficulty of inclement weather, spirits were quite high and this helped make this contest even more memorable. The sun shone at the end of the day and participants, coaches and volunteers were treated to a BBQ dinner at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

The organizing committee would like to thank the following companies and organizations for their support:

Aventis Canada  
BASF Canada  
Bayer  
Dow AgroSciences Canada  
DuPont Canada  
First Line Seeds  
Monsanto Canada  
Novartis Crop Protection  
Ontario Agricultural College  
Ontario Corn Growers Association  
Ontario Soybean Growers  
Sleeman's Malting and Brewing  
Zeneca Agro

Winning teams in the **Undergraduate** category were:

### **First: Ohio State 'A'**

Traci Brenly  
Luke Case  
Keith Diedrick  
Kevin Johnson

### **Second: Nova Scotia 'A'**

Kerry Cluney  
Catriona MacNeil  
Gordon Murray

### **Third: Ohio State 'B'**

Don Burgess  
Justin Ringler  
Geoff Trainer

Winning teams in the **Graduate** category were:

### **First: Virginia Tech 'A'**

Andy Bailey  
Bryan Johnson  
Steve King  
Corey Whaley

### **Second: North Carolina State 'B'**

Shawn Askew  
Keith Burnell  
Shawn Troxler

### **Third: Cornell 'A'**

Nancy Gift  
Brad Rauch

**Individual winners** were:

### **Undergraduates:**

1 <sup>st</sup> :	Luke Case	Ohio State
2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Kerry Cluney	Nova Scotia
3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Traci Brenly	Ohio State

### **Graduates:**

1 <sup>st</sup> :	Shawn Askew	North Carolina State
2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Corey Whaley	Virginia Tech
3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Steve King	Virginia Tech

The following photographs of the 2000 NEWSS  
Collegiate Weed Contest were taken by:  
*Jason Griffiths, BASF Canada, Inc.*



Volunteers from the University of Guelph (left to right):  
Jason Cathcart, Christophe LaHovary,  
Kris McNaughton, Melanie Dumont.



Organizers and Volunteers for the NEWSS Collegiate  
Weed Contest: Univ. of Guelph, Ontario - August 1, 2000



Weed Identification contest organizers:  
Nancy DeSousa (left) and Nancy Cain.



Clarence Swanton (podium), Francois Tardif (left),  
and Rob Nurse (right)



Herbicide Identification contest organizers:  
Ian McDonald (left) and Mike Cowbrough.



Francois Tardif, Contest Coordinator



Peter Johnson (aka 'Angry Farmer') discussing his crop  
problem after the contest.



Weed Identification portion of the contest.



Sprayer Calibration: Boom height check



Herbicide Identification portion of the contest.



Sprayer calibration with judges observing.



Calculations involved in calibrating a sprayer.



Grower Problem consultation (left to right):  
Don Burgess (contestant), Laura VanEerd (judge),  
Peter Johnson (farmer).



Hugh Martin (farmer) and Traci Brenly (contestant).



Keith Diedrick (contestant) and Peter Sikkema (farmer).



Elaine Roddy (farmer), Gerry Stephenson (judge) and Hennen Cummings (contestant).



Keith Burnell (contestant) and Leslie Huffman (farmer).



Andy Bailey (contestant), Heather Griffiths (farmer) and Kristen Callow (judge).



Bill Dean (farmer) and Mark Rinehardt (contestant).

*Names are listed from left to right in the following award photographs. Clarence Swanton is on the far right in each photo. The newsletter editor apologizes for not obtaining the names of the team coaches.*



First-place Graduate Team: Virginia Tech 'A':  
Steve King, Andy Bailey, Corey Whaley,  
Bryan Johnson (not in photo)



Second-place Graduate Team: North Carolina State 'B':  
Coach, Shawn Troxler, Shawn Askew, Keith Burnell



Third-place Graduate Team: Cornell Univ. 'A':  
Coach, Nancy Gift (and baby), Brad Raunch



First-place Graduate Student Award:  
Shawn Askew, North Carolina State Univ.



Second-place Graduate Student Award:  
Corey Whaley, Virginia Tech



Third-place Graduate Student Award:  
Steve King, Virginia Tech



First-place Undergraduate Team: Ohio State 'A'  
Coach, Traci Brenly, Kevin Johnson,  
Keith Diedrick, Luke Case, Coach



First-place Undergraduate Student Award:  
Luke Case, Ohio State Univ.



Second-place Undergraduate Team: Nova Scotia 'A'  
Coach, Gordon Murray, Kerry Cluney,  
Catriona MacNeil



Second-place Undergraduate Student Award:  
Kerry Cluney, Nova Scotia Agric. College



Third-place Undergraduate Team: Ohio State 'B'  
Coach, Geoff Trainer, Justin Ringler,  
Don Burgess, Coach



Third-place Undergraduate Student Award:  
Traci Brenly, Ohio State Univ.

# Northeastern Weed Science Society – 2000 Executive Committee

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## **NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY 55th ANNUAL MEETING**

January 2-5, 2001 – Boston Marriott Cambridge - Cambridge, MA 02142

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