



Northeastern Weed Science
Society

NEWSletter

Fall 2021



Caren A. Schmidt

Comments from the President **Caren A. Schmidt**

We are in the final stretches of preparing for our annual meeting in January. We look forward to seeing you all there. Thanks to those of you that submitted titles for posters and oral presentations. The program committee will incorporate the submitted entries along with the General session/Awards, member and student symposia, business meetings, past president's breakfast, graduate student symposium and the social events to ensure an informational and enjoyable meeting for all. Thanks for their outstanding efforts with the program.

We are working to do everything we can to ensure a successful AND safe meeting. Please note, we moved the registration deadline to December 1, for planning purposes. Due to the ever-evolving Covid environment, we want to ensure we have enough participation to meet our hotel requirements. Hotel registration is due by Dec. 10 to enjoy the \$112/night room rate.

The Wyndham Gettysburg is a very nice facility, with a lot of space, that we will have to ourselves. With almost no concurrent sessions, we will utilize the large ballroom for most of the meeting and everyone will be able to be comfortably spaced. Further, we will follow all applicable Covid safety guidelines, to ensure everyone's comfort and safety.

At the meeting, we are looking forward to awarding our inaugural Student Writing Contest winners, thanks to the Endowment fund and Endowment committee. Thanks to Rakesh Chandran for leading the judging efforts and his committee of judges. We look very forward to seeing you at NEPPSC 2022. Wishing you a bountiful harvest and holiday season. We will see you in Gettysburg in the New Year!

Important Dates

November 1, 2021

Meeting registration opens; hotel registration opens

****NEW****

December 1, 2021:

Early bird meeting registration ends

Dec 10, 2021

Hotel reservation deadline (to be included in room block)

Wyndham Hotel in Gettysburg

January 2, 2022

PowerPoint slides and abstract deadline

January 3-6, 2022

NEPPSC meeting at the Wyndham Gettysburg, Gettysburg, PA,
Theme – Science Communication

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Dr. Erin Hitchner

Meet the Incoming Vice President Nominee **Dr. Erin Hitchner**

Dr. Erin Hitchner is a Research and Development Scientist for Syngenta serving the Mid-Atlantic region. Her research focuses on developing novel insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, nematicides as well as traits across agronomic, fruit and vegetable crops. Additionally, she coordinates research trials with University cooperators throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Erin's interest with entomology began at an early age while exploring the vegetable farm she grew up on in New Jersey. She attended Rutgers University where she studied Biology with a concentration in Entomology. Following graduation, she began her career as an IR-4 Field Director with the IR-4 Program, stationed at the Rutgers Agricultural Research and Development Center in Bridgeton, NJ. She eventually returned

to college to pursue her PhD in entomology studying under Dr. Thomas Kuhar at Virginia Tech. Her research focused on investigating the integrated pest management of Colorado potato beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*) utilizing host plant preference, development of semiochemical-based strategies as well as a novel insecticide.

It was Gary Schnappinger's passion for NEWSS that first introduced Erin to the society. He insisted she attend and volunteer at the NEWSS summer weed contest at the University of Delaware in 2008. From that introduction and experience, Erin joined the Society and went on to serve as the NEWSS Treasurer from 2014-2016. She is also active in the Eastern Branch Entomological Society and American Phytopathological Societies.

Erin and her husband reside in New Jersey with their three daughters.

Treasurer's Report
Larissa Smith



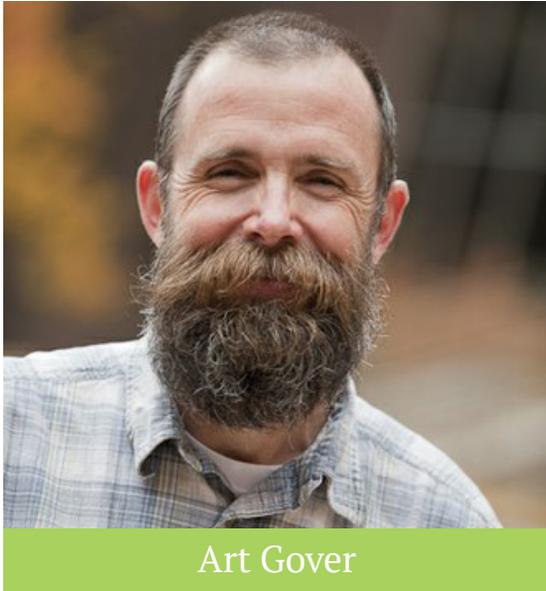
The mailing address for NEWSS has changed.

Please address correspondence to:

Larissa Smith, NEWSS Treasurer
P.O. Box 303
King Ferry, NY 13081

**2021 Financial Report as of
October 1, 2021**

Savings Balance	\$31,871.80
Checking Balance	\$45,926.79
12 Month CD	\$50,264.27
Endowment Fund	\$49,259.42
Total Net Assets	\$177,322.28



Past President's Report Art Gover

One more time. My last NEWSletter posting, before rotating off the NEWS Board and into the purgatory of past-president-hood. Then will begin the selective implementation of "I'm retired".

Three points. Society awards. Endowment Social. Endowment fund updates.

You recently received an announcement from Membership Chair Thierry Besançon with details of the NEWS awards, reminding you to provide your nominations to me by November 19, 2021. The society presents the following awards:

- Fellow
- Award of Merit
- Outstanding Educator
- Outstanding Researcher
- Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student (M.S. and Ph.D.)
- Garry Schnappinger Distinguished Service Award

Refer to the handy table below to refresh your memory on recent awardees, and be inspired to nominate your fellow Society members. The announcement came with a handy form (.docx). If you can't extract it from your inbox, you can download [MOP Addendum-6](#) (docx) from news.org. The deadline is tight this year, so do not delay.

NEWS will host an Endowment Social on Wednesday evening at the annual conference in Gettysburg. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the

customary Dessert Social has evolved into the Endowment Social. The tremendous support Sustaining Members provided for the Dessert Social is now being directed towards this event - gather for phellowship, phun, and while you're not looking – philanthropy. Renee Keese has already secured generous donations from our very-Sustaining Members. The original bowling night model is undergoing a venue and theme revision, but the general idea of a fun evening with something for everyone is still the goal.

The NEWSS Endowment will be funding Graduate Student Quiz Bowl and Writing Contest at this year's annual meeting. As the Endowment continues to grow, one of the tasks for the oversight committee each year is to optimally direct the fund proceeds to encourage and reward students for their ongoing contributions to the Society. As Larissa Smith shares in the Treasurer's Report, the NEWSS Endowment currently stands at \$48,727.09, up almost 20 percent from this time in 2020. I would like to thank the Society for its ongoing generosity and collective support of student participation in the Society.

Recipients of the NEWSS Awards for the Last Five Years					
Award	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Fellow	Greg Armel	Tommy Hines Grant Jordan Dwight Lingenfelter	Toni DiTommaso	Mark VanGessel	Hilary Sandler
Award of Merit	Quintin Johnson	Dave Mayonado James Steffel	Matt Mahoney	Renee Keese	Greg Armel Robin Bellinder
Outstanding Educator	John Kaminski	Jacob Barney	Hilary Sandler	Toni DiTommaso	James Brosnan
Outstanding Researcher	Thierry Besançon	Not Awarded	Michael Flessner	Rob Richardson	Wes Everman
Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student - Ph.D.	Theresa Piskáčková	John Brewer	Shawn Beam	Sandeep Rana	Katelyn Venner
Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student - M.S.	Eric Scruggs	Lucas Rector	Kara Pittman	Not Awarded	Jeff Leibert
Garry Schnappinger Service Recognition	Kurt Vollmer	Rakesh Chandran	Erin Hitchner	José Javier Vargas	Not Awarded



Jacob Barney

President Elect's Report Jacob Barney

Happy fall everyone! The Program Committee and Executive Committee have been working hard preparing the 2022 meeting in Gettysburg. We are still planning for an in person meeting but will continue to keep a close eye on the pandemic and will make any necessary changes as the circumstances demand. Please note that we will be following all local, state, and CDC guidelines on masking, social distancing, etc. Let's all keep our fingers crossed for improving news in the coming months. Nearly the whole meeting will occur in one large room, allowing ample space to spread out!

I must admit being concerned we would not have enough titles to proceed, but I am pleased to report that we have 98 titles submitted! This is lower than some recent years, but understandable given the state of the world. The slightly lower number of titles actually played to our advantage in our new format of not having any concurrent sections. I have included the condensed program below, which accommodates all submitted talks with 15min time slots. For perhaps the first time at NEWSS/NEPPSC (in person) you will be able to watch every talk! In addition to the student and contributed talks we will have the breakout sessions split across two days, individual roundtables, a very interactive society wide symposium on science communication, a new evening poster session/happy hour that we are trying, and another new event – Endowment Social (look elsewhere in the newsletter for details on that). We will have all of the usual events plus some new activities I mentioned. We are also moving the awards to the opening session. We appreciate your flexibility as we continue to change our meeting format dynamically in response to current circumstances.

I am working on the final program now and am really excited about seeing you all in person! Please register soon after it opens to we can plan accordingly regarding the number of attendees. See you soon and stay safe!

The Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference
January 3 - 6, 2022
Gettysburg, PA
Full Program is Now Available Online

Day 1: January 3, 2022		
Start	End	Topic
1:00 PM	2:00 PM	NEWSS Board + Program Committee
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	NEWSS Board meeting
3:00 PM	4:00 PM	Mid-Atlantic Weed Guide
3:00 PM	4:00 PM	Weed Contest Committee
3:00 PM	3:30 PM	Endowment Committee
3:30 PM	4:00 PM	Section Chair meeting
3:30 PM	4:00 PM	Awards Committee
4:00 PM	6:00 PM	Opening Session + Awards
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Student Quiz Bowl
6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Social
1:00 PM	10:00 PM	Poster/Exhibit setup

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Day 2: January 4, 2022		
Start	End	Topic
7:30 AM	9:00 AM	Poster Session
9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Student Oral Presentations 1
10:30AM	10:45 AM	Break
10:45 AM	12:15 PM	Student Oral Presentations 2
12:15 PM	1:45 PM	Lunch Break + Awards/Guest speaker luncheon + EC
1:45 PM	3:30 PM	Student Oral Presentations 3
3:30 PM	4:00 PM	Break
4:00 PM	6:00 PM	Symposium - Science Communication
6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Happy Hour + posters

The Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference
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Day 3: January 5, 2022		
Start	End	Topic
8:00 AM	10:00 AM	Fruit, Veg, Tree Crops 1
10:00 AM	10:15 AM	Break
10:15 AM	12:15 PM	Turf, Ornamental, Non-crop 1
12:15 PM	1:30 PM	Lunch Break
12:15 PM	1:30 PM	Grad Student Luncheon + Student Symposium
1:30 PM	3:30 PM	Agronomic Crops 1
3:30 PM	3:45 PM	Break
3:45 PM	5:00 PM	Agronomic Crops Roundtable
3:45 PM	5:00 PM	Turf & Ornamentals Roundtable
3:45 PM	5:00 PM	Fruit & Veg Roundtable
3:45 PM	5:00 PM	IR4 Roundtable
5:00 PM	5:15 PM	Break

The Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference
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Full Program is Now Available Online

5:15 PM	6:30 PM	Business Meeting NEWSS
5:15 PM	6:30 PM	Business Meeting NE-ASHS
5:15 PM	6:30 PM	Business Meeting NE-SCA
7:00 PM	10:00 PM	Endowment Social
Day 4: January 6, 2022		
Start	End	Topic
7:00 AM	5:00 PM	Storage
7:00 AM	5:00 PM	Office
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Past presidents' breakfast
8:00 AM	8:45 AM	Fruit, Veg, Tree Crops 2
8:45 AM	11:00 AM	Turf, Ornamental, Non-crop 2
11:00 AM	12:45 PM	Agronomic Crops 2
12:45 PM	3:00 PM	Lunch meeting-NEPPSC Board

Editor's Report

Lane Heimer

The 2021 NEPPSC and NEWSS Proceedings have been delayed and will be completed and on the NEWSS Website and distributed to our partner societies by November 15

For the 2022 Meeting:

Abstracts are due Sunday, January 2, 2022 for the annual meeting.

You must have submitted a title to submit an abstract. Submit abstract via <http://weedscimeetingabstracts.com>

Instructions for submission can be found in the NEWSS Manual of Operating Procedures, Addendum 1 - SUBMITTING TITLES AND ABSTRACTS. It can be found online at: <https://www.newss.org/docs/mop/addendum-1.pdf>.

Please limit abstracts to one page. When entering the abstract text at weedscimeetingabstracts.com, there is a field for you to compose or paste your abstract text. DO NOT ENTER THE TITLE or AUTHORS into this field.

Note: Remember to use the blue Submit button prior to exiting the window.

Edits can be made until January 2, when the Abstract submission site will be closed. After that time, contact the Editor.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to details.

Deadlines are FIRM. If an abstract is not entered by January 2, the title will not be included in the meeting's proceedings.

For those presenting oral papers, please remember to upload you PowerPoint slides to weedscimeetingabstracts.com by January 2, 11:59 PM EST.

Mark your calendars for the 2022 NEPPSC

Meeting Deadlines:

Abstracts are due by January 2, 2022

Graduate Student Report **Maria Gannett and Eric Jones**

It can be difficult to accept the truth of shorter days and cooler nights that signal the end of the field season and the start of the “office and writing” season. However, the changing of seasons means we can start to look forward to NEPPSC 2022. We hope you have all submitted your titles and are working on presentations. We are looking forward to seeing what you have all been working on this past year and hope many of you will be able to attend. Registration opens November 1st, so be on the lookout for that.

We have decided to bring back the student quiz bowl this year, so be sure to join us on Monday January 3rd at 5:30 for a trivia-style competition. It should be a fun way to meet new people and a few talented teams will win monetary prizes!

We hope your fall semesters have started well. Please reach out with any weed science society related questions, concerns, or news. We'd be happy to hear or help.

Cheers,
Maria and Eric

Membership Report

Thierry Besançon

Current membership is 92 regular members, 29 student, and 10 sustaining companies. Three new membership have been recorded since the last NEWSS annual meeting in January 2021.

Our student membership remains identical in 2021 to what it was in 2020 with 29 students. As a reminder, our student membership was only 19 in 2019.

Our membership at large directory includes 225 people who attended previous NEPPSC meetings over the last 3 years but do not consider themselves regular members of the society.

All NEWSS communication is circulated to the regular, student, and at-large membership of the society. Members-at-large who have not been active in the society in the past 3 years are removed from the directory if not registered at the next annual meeting, have since passed away, or asked to be removed from the listserv.

If you know any past member who is not receiving information from NEWSS and would be interested to stay in touch with the society, please let me know and I will gladly add them to the list. Also, if you know someone who is not yet a member but could benefit from the Society, please encourage them to become a member and pass their contact information to me.

Thank in advance for keeping your contact information with NEWSS current. Please indicate any mail or any email address changes by sending an email to thierry.besancon@rutgers.edu.

Washington Report

Lee Van Wychen

2021 Science Policy Fellows: Rebecca Champagne and Devon Carroll

The Weed Science Policy Fellowship program is a unique opportunity for graduate students to assist me in my role as Executive Director of Science Policy for WSSA while gaining experience dealing with a broad array of weed science policy issues. This year's Science Policy Fellows are Rebecca Champagne at the University of Maine and Devon Carroll at the University of Tennessee.



Rebecca Champagne

Rebecca is a third year Ph.D. candidate at the University of Maine working with Dr. Eric Gallandt. Her research primarily focuses on physical and cultural weed management in organic vegetable systems, mainly for small-scale, diversified operations. Prior to her Ph.D. work, she received a B.S. in Sustainable Agriculture from the University of Maine and an M.S. in

Agronomy from Penn State. She also worked as a research analyst for an agricultural software startup in New York City. Rebecca's past involvement in the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Congressional Visit Days piqued her interest in science policy work, where she saw an opportunity to apply her research and critical thinking skills to affect positive changes for U.S. agriculture. She is passionate about helping small-scale farmers and underrepresented groups through policy and is excited for the opportunities the

WSSA policy fellowship will bring.

Devon is a third year Ph.D. candidate at the University of Tennessee studying Turfgrass Weed Science under the direction of Dr. Jim Brosnan.



Devon Carroll

Her dissertation research is focused on understanding how environmental factors affect the length of life of the species *Poa annua* L. Devon earned a B.S. in Turfgrass Science and M.S. in Agronomy focused in turfgrass both from Penn State. She also holds a second M.S. in Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communications from the University of Tennessee. Devon is passionate about communication and has sought opportunities to expand her skills in this area. Most notably,

she conducted sociological research aiming to understand barriers and opportunities for women in the turfgrass industry and was selected to participate in the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Congressional Visits Day. Devon is interested in engaging with stakeholders across the weed science discipline to learn more about how scientific communication shapes policy.

FY 2022 Ag Appropriations Moving Forward, but Short-Term Continuing Resolution Likely

The House has moved forward with their \$26.5 billion spending plan for the FY 2022 Agriculture budget that would provide about a 10% increase over current funding levels, including \$3.391 billion (\$321 million above the FY 2021 enacted level) for agriculture research programs. The House ag appropriations bill passed out of committee on a bipartisan vote. It is now part of a more controversial [Seventeen-Billion Appropriations Package](#) in the House that was approved on a party line vote on July 29.

The Senate ag appropriations bill cleared the Appropriations Committee on a 25-5 vote on August 4, has not passed the full Senate. The bill includes about \$25.9 billion and would boost spending on ag research by \$292 million over the current fiscal year to \$3.6 billion, roughly the same increase included in the bill that cleared the House.

Many ag research programs are slated for increases in both the House and Senate versions compared to FY 2021 levels. This includes an approximate \$150 million increase for ARS and \$100 million increase for NIFA. Specifically, the IR-4 Program, which has been flat funded at \$11.9 million per year for the past decade was recommended at \$20 million in the president's FY 2022 budget, but only \$14 million in the House and \$14.5 million in the Senate. Other NIFA programs that were slated to receive increases in both the House and Senate include the Hatch and Smith-Lever Act capacity funding programs, AFRI Competitive Grants, and SARE.

However, there is still no agreement yet on overall spending levels in the Senate for the next fiscal year, which starts October 1, due to the massive "budget reconciliation" bill currently under consideration (see below). Thus, Congress will likely have to pass a continuing resolution that would maintain FY 2021 spending levels for most agencies through the short term.

"Infrastructure Package" Could Provide Nearly \$500 Million for Invasive Plant Management

An "Infrastructure Package" has been under consideration many times in the past decade, but has never made it across the finish line. However, Congress has gotten further down the road to final passage in the past couple months than in recent memory.

However, there is a complicated political "do-si-do" going on (some might call it a "game of political chicken") where the fate of the current \$1.2 trillion (yes, that's TRILLION) infrastructure package that

passed the Senate on a 69-30 vote in early August is inextricably tied to the more monstrous "budget reconciliation" bill that has a \$3.5 trillion price tag. All that aside, the current version of the infrastructure bill will cost \$1.2 trillion over eight years, and has more than \$550 billion in new spending, including:

- \$110 billion in new funds for roads, bridges, and major projects (\$40 billion is new funding for bridge repair, replacement, and rehabilitation, and \$17.5 billion is for major projects)
- \$73 billion for the country's electric grid and power structures
- \$66 billion for rail services
- \$65 billion for broadband
- \$55 billion for water infrastructure
- \$21 billion in environmental remediation

Part of the "environmental remediation" spending in the infrastructure package includes the following two programs that could channel almost a \$500 million over five years for invasive plant management:

- Sec. 11522. \$50 million per year for five years for an "invasive plant elimination program" through the Federal Highway Administration.
- Sec. 40804. \$200 million split between the Dept. of the Interior and USDA over 5 years for "ecosystem restoration" through the US Forest Service for "invasive species detection, prevention, and eradication, including conducting research and providing resources to facilitate detection of invasive species at points of entry and awarding grants for eradication of invasive species on non-Federal land and on Federal land".

"Budget Reconciliation" Bill is Massive, Mind-boggling, and a Game Changer

On Sep. 13, the House Agriculture Committee advanced its portion of the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation package by a party line vote of 27-24. The bill includes a massive \$7.75 billion investment in agriculture climate research and infrastructure. Below are some of

Agriculture Research Item	FY 2021 Funding Level	“Reconciliation Bill INCREASE”
Agricultural Research Infrastructure	\$0 million	\$3.65 billion
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)	\$435 million	\$500 million
Agriculture Advanced Research & Development Authority (AgARDA)	\$0 million	\$380 million
Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR)	\$185 million	\$540 million
Smith-Lever Cooperative Extension	\$315 million	\$600 million
Sustainable Agriculture Research Education (SARE)	\$40 million	\$500 million
Research Equipment Grants	\$5 million	\$100 million
Crop Protection & Pest Mang't	\$20 million	\$30 million
Organic Agriculture Research and Education Initiative	\$25 million	\$200 million
Agricultural Research Service	\$1.49 billion	\$250 million

the funding INCREASES that are in the current draft of the bill, relative to its FY 2021 funding level:

Some of the “Budget Reconciliation” bill increases occur in a single year, while other increases would occur over five years with the total increase reached by FY 2026. Either way, you can do the math and see why some of these numbers are both mind-boggling and a game changer.

The path forward for the “budget reconciliation” bill remains unclear. (that is a HUGE understatement). To satisfy Senators Manchin (D-WV) and Sinema (D-AZ), the package will have to be smaller. “Much smaller” according to Sen. Manchin, who voiced support for a \$1-1.5 trillion package compared to the current \$3.5 trillion. We will continue to engage on both the budget reconciliation bill and the infrastructure bill to make sure weed science research and management issues are well represented.

As part of the AFRI Coalition, WSSA sent a letter to Congressional leadership in support of the \$7.75 billion for USDA research in the House Agriculture Committee reconciliation pro-

posal. The letter highlighted the \$500 million in additional funding proposed for AFRI and emphasized the transformative impact that level of funding could have on American agriculture. [Read the letter here.](#)

Chuck Sams Nominated as National Park Service Director



Chuck Sams

President Biden has nominated Charles F. “Chuck” Sams III to serve as the next Director of the National Park Service (NPS), a position that requires confirmation from the U.S. Senate and has been vacant since 2017. Sams currently serves as a Council Member to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and has worked in state and tribal governments and the nonprofit natural resource and conservation management fields for more than 25 years. He has previously held

a number of positions with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, most recently serving as their Executive Director. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and is also a former adjunct professor at Georgetown University and Whitman College.

Sams earned his B.S. in business administration from Concordia University-Portland and holds a master of legal studies in Indigenous Peoples Law from the University of Oklahoma. If confirmed, Sams would become the first Native American to lead NPS.

Randy Moore is the New Forest Service Chief

On June 28, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that Randy Moore will serve as the 20th Chief of the USDA Forest Service.



Randy Moore

African American to lead the Forest Service.

Confirmed Federal Agency Leaders

- USDA Secretary – Tom Vilsack
- USDA Deputy Secretary – Jewel Bronaugh
- USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics

(nominated) – Chavonda Jacobs-Young

- USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment (nominated) – Homer L Wilkes
- DOI Secretary – Deb Haaland
- DOI Deputy Secretary- Tommy Beaudreau
- DOI Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks- Shannon Estenoz
- DOI Assistant Secretary for Water and Science – Tanya Trujillo
- Army Corps Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (nominated) – Michael Connor
- EPA Administrator- Michael Regan
- EPA Deputy Administrator – Janet McCabe
- EPA Assistant Administrator for Chemical Safety & Pollution Prevention- Michal Freedhoff
- EPA Assistant Administrator for Water- Radhika Fox
- Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chair- Brenda Mallory

Paraquat Decision Drops: EPA Finalizes Paraquat Registration, OKs Aerial Applications for Now

By Emily Unglesbee, DTN Staff Reporter. Published 8/2/2021. Republished with permission.

EPA finalized its interim registration decision for paraquat on Aug. 1, reversing its proposal last year to ban most aerial applications.

Instead, the agency will permit aerial applications of the Group 22 herbicide in crops, with expanded buffer requirements and acreage limits designed to protect applicators. Aerial use of paraquat is most common in cotton, where it is used as a plant desiccant to prepare for harvest.

Though finalized, EPA's conclusion here remains an "interim" registration decision. The agency will not have a complete registration decision for paraquat until it conducts its endangered species assessment and an endocrine screening for the chemical.

The agency first put out a draft interim decision for paraquat back in October 2020, wherein it proposed banning all aerial applications except for cotton desiccation, in addition to banning handgun and backpack sprayer application methods. See more on that draft decision [HERE](#). In its new decision, the EPA noted that, outside cotton desiccation, “aerial application of paraquat is likely minimal or sporadic.”

Some of the changes EPA made between that draft and the new finalized decision are the result of new data from a consortium of chemical companies called the Agricultural Handler Exposure Task Force. See more [HERE](#).

Ultimately, the finalized decision has these changes:

- Aerial applications are permitted but limited to a maximum of 350 acres per applicator within a 24-hour period for all uses except cotton desiccation, where no acreage limitations will be required.
- A 50- to 75-foot residential buffer requirement now applies to all aerial uses of paraquat.
- The use of human flaggers during paraquat applications is prohibited.
- Enclosed cabs are required for applications made to more than 80 acres in a 24-hour period, to limit inhalation risks.
- For smaller applications to 80 acres or fewer in a 24-hour-period, PF10 respirators can be used, or enclosed cabs.
- Applications with mechanically pressurized handguns and backpack sprayers are prohibited.
- Applicators must follow a 48-hour restricted entry interval for all crop uses except for cotton desiccation, which requires a seven-day restricted entry interval.
- Labels will include new language designed to limit spray drift, as well as new units of measurement.

To see the full decision, visit the EPA docket [HERE](#).

Use of paraquat, which is sold under brand names such as Gramaxone, Firestorm and Parazone, has increased steadily in the U.S. in the past decade, in response to the development of herbicide-resistant weeds. Applications rose from under 5 million pounds a year before 2013 to as high as 12 million pounds per year in 2017. Based on survey data from a research company called Kynetec USA, the highest use by acreage is in soybeans, cotton and corn, but producers also lean heavily on paraquat in grapes, pistachios and peanuts.

However, the chemical has also been the target of lawsuits and controversy, given its high toxicity, its role in poisoning accidents and research suggesting it might be linked to Parkinson’s disease. Most recently, paraquat registrant Syngenta and a past manufacturer of the chemical, Chevron USA, are facing class-action lawsuits alleging that its use has caused Parkinson’s disease in farmers. See more [HERE](#).

The herbicide is undergoing EPA’s routine 15-year re-registration review, which the agency began back in 2012. In 2016, the agency instituted new rules on labeling, packaging and handling requirements aimed at reducing accidental poisonings. See more [HERE](#).

Environmental groups reacted with concern to EPA’s finalized interim decision permitting aerial applications.

“It’s extremely disappointing that the Biden EPA is reapproving this dangerous pesticide, which is outlawed across a lot of the world,” Nathan Donley, environmental health science director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a news release. “Instead of banning a weed-killer linked to Parkinson’s disease in farmworkers, reproductive harm in small mammals and increased death rates for birds, this administration is bowing to the wishes of the chemical industry and allowing it to be sprayed on crops from the air.”

Emily Unglesbee can be reached at Emily.unglesbee@dtn.com
Follow her on Twitter [@Emily_Unglesbee](https://twitter.com/Emily_Unglesbee)
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Lee Van Wychen NOTE 1: The cancellation of backpack sprayers and mechanically pressurized handguns **does NOT have an impact on the experimental use of paraquat** under an Experimental Use Permit or the 40 CFR 172.3(b) exemption. Labels for unregistered products distributed solely for experimental use and research purposes do not need EPA approval and can differ from registered products as appropriate for the experimental use.

Lee Van Wychen NOTE 2: After a thorough review of the best available science, **EPA has NOT found a clear link between paraquat exposure from labeled uses and adverse health outcomes such as Parkinson’s disease and cancer.** EPA has evaluated hundreds of studies, including published toxicity and epidemiology literature on paraquat exposure and adverse health outcomes, including Parkinson’s Disease. There are many studies on paraquat and Parkinson’s Disease that range in quality and provide conflicting results. Following EPA’s 2019 [literature review](#), a [2020 update](#) from the large and comprehensive Agricultural Health Study (AHS) was published that **reported NO association between paraquat exposure and Parkinson’s Disease.** The AHS is considered the “Gold Standard” and has been tracking the health of tens of thousands of agricultural workers, farmers and their families in Iowa and North Carolina. Notably, the updated AHS did not replicate [earlier 2011 findings from AHS](#) that were considered by EPA and suggested a potential association may exist.

[Infographic \(Following Page\): Does Glyphosate Cause Cancer? 18 of 19 Global Regulatory and Chemical Oversight Agencies Say ‘no’ While One Presents Equivocal Data](#)

By: Genetic Literacy Project. September 13, 2021.

Weed Science Societies Support NEPA and Lacey Act Fixes for Invasive Species

The national and regional weed science societies supported letters that would improve invasive species management on two separate issues.

The [first letter](#) requests that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) approve the Department of the Interior’s request for a number of categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for invasive species control. Without the ability to use categorical exclusions to promptly control invasive annual grasses after a fire on federal lands, those invasive grasses have spread rapidly while federal land managers have to go through the NEPA process, which has taken years in many cases, before those invasive grasses can be managed.

The [second letter](#) supports legislation, S. 626, in the Senate that would fix a flaw in the Lacey Act, which came about through a federal court case, where the court interpreted that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) could not regulate interstate commerce in injurious species, notwithstanding decades of generally accepted practice during which FWS had exercised that authority.

NISAW 2022 is Feb. 28 – Mar. 4

The next National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) will be February 28 – March 4, 2022 and will return to a single week-long event and “fly-in” to Washington DC. If you have topics or issues of concern, or would like to help plan next year’s NISAW, please let me know.

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Science Policy
National and Regional Weed Science Societies
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The Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference

January 3 - 6, 2022

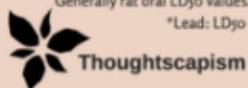
Gettysburg, PA

Acute toxicity Life-threatening one-time doses

SUBSTANCE	FOUND IN	Lethal dose (LD50 mg/kg)	CATEGORY
Water	... Water	90000	Practically non-toxic
Sucrose	Table sugar	30000	
Monosodium glutamate	Flavor enhancer, soy, cheese	16000	
Ethanol	Alcoholic beverages	7000	
Glyphosate	Herbicide (RoundUp)	5600	
Aluminum hydroxide	Antacid, vaccine adjuvant	>5000	
Fructose	Fruits, component of sucrose	4000	Slightly toxic
Spinosad	Organic insecticide	3700	
Sodium chloride	Table salt	3000	
Eugenol	Clove oil, organic pesticide	2700	
Paracetamol (acetaminophen)	Tylenol, Panadol	2400	
Vanillin	Vanilla bean, vanilla sugar	1600	
Hydrogen peroxide 70%	Bleach, disinfectant	1000	Moderately toxic
Theobromine	Chocolate, tea, guarana	950	
Copper sulfate	Organic fungicide	300	
Chlorpyrifos	Organophosphate insecticide	230	
Caffeine	Natural pesticide, coffee plant	190	
Lead	Batteries, cables, paints	155*	
DDT	Restricted insecticide	100	Highly toxic
Rotenone	Restricted organic pesticide	60	
Vitamin D3	Supplements, fish, mushrooms	37	
Nicotine	Natural pesticide, tobacco	10	
Mycotoxin T2	Plant pathogen, moldy grain	5	
Aflatoxin	Soil fungus, moldy foods	5	
Hydrogen cyanide	Fruit pits, bitter cassava	4	Highly toxic
Botulinum toxin	Botox, Clostridium botulinium	0.001	

Generally rat oral LD50 values. Botulinum: mouse and human, nicotine: human, cyanide: mouse.

*Lead: LD50 not available, lowest human lethal dose included.



Sources: EFSA, WHO, EPA, NIH, NHS
Read more: thoughtscapism.com



Chronic toxicity Acceptable daily intakes of minimal concern

SUBSTANCE	FOUND IN	Limit mg/kg
Water	You know this one	50000
Sucrose	Table sugar	800
Ethanol	Alcoholic beverages	170
Monosodium glutamate	Cheese, soy, flavor enhancer	120
Sodium chloride	Table salt	60
Vanillin	Vanilla bean, vanilla sugar	10
Eugenol	Clove oil, organic pesticide	1
Glyphosate	Herbicide (RoundUp)	0.5
Copper sulfate	Organic fungicide	0.5
Aluminum hydroxide	Antacid, vaccine adjuvant	0.14
Paracetamol	Tylenol, Panadol	0.093
Spinosad	Organic insecticide	0.024
Hydrogen cyanide	Fruit pits, bitter cassava	0.012
DDT	Restricted insecticide	0.010
Lead	Batteries, cables, paints	0.007
Caffeine	Coffee, tea, chocolate	0.003
Vitamin D3	Supplements, fish	0.002
Chlorpyrifos	Organophosphate pesticide	0.001
Rotenone	Restricted organic pesticide	0.0004
Nicotine	Natural pesticide, tobacco	0.0008
Mycotoxin T2	Fusarium, moldy grain	0.00002

Limits: Reference Dose (RfD or ADI), Reference Intake (RI), Upper Limit (UL), or Tolerable Daily Intake (TDI). Colours for readability (no official categories exist for these limits).



Sources: EFSA, WHO, EPA, NIH, NHS
More at: thoughtscapism.com



WSSA Report

Rakesh Chandran, WSSA Representative

The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America is scheduled to be organized as an in-person meeting on February 21-24, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, jointly between the WSSA and the Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS) at the Sheraton Wall Centre, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Hotel reservations can now be made through the WSSA website (under 'Meetings; 2022 Annual Meeting'). Title and Abstract submission deadlines are November 15th and January 31st, respectively, through the WSSA abstract and title submission system (weedscimeetingabstracts.com).

The keynote session is planned for February 21st (Monday) afternoon followed by general reception. Tuesday morning will feature the 'puff-run', poster session and initial round of 3MT contests. Women in Weed Science lunch will be held during lunch on Tuesday. Wednesday will feature the President's Breakfast meeting, Graduate student Organization lunch, final round of 3MT contest, joint industry reception, and the GSO student night out. The WSSA Business Meeting breakfast will be held Thursday.

The 2022 Annual Meeting symposia topics include 'North American Kochia Action Committee: Priorities for Coordinating Research, Communication, and Outreach' (Gaines and Geddes); Biological Weed Management (Bell et al.); 'Showcasing USDA Agricultural Research Service' (Young and Duke); 'Current Regulatory and Legal Environment for Weed Control Products' (Eure and Moseley); and 'Drones for Weed Control (Alford). The 'Endangered species Act' by EPA will be organized as a webinar symposium prior to the meeting (most likely on January 13 from 1-3 pm; details being worked out).

The updated Impact Factors for WSSA journals (as of June 2021) are: Weed Science 2.713; Weed Technology 1.884; Invasive Plant Science and Management: 1.273. Dr. Jim Kell will serve a second term as the WSSA Fellow for NIFA. Dr. Mark VanGessel is the new EPA Liaison for WSSA. The WSSA will present a total of 10 Travel Enrichment Scholarships to students during 2022 (5+5; since no scholarships were awarded in 2021).

The 2023 WSSA Annual meeting will be held jointly with NEWSS in Arlington, Virginia, and 2024 Annual Meeting will be held jointly with the Southern Weed Science Society in San Antonio, Texas.

Respectfully submitted,
Rakesh Chandran, WSSA Representative

Committee List

Name	Title	Email	Term Expires
Officers (Executive Committee)			
Caren Schmidt	President	caren.schmidt@basf.com	2022 - Rotates to Past President
Jacob Barney	President Elect	jnbarney@vt.edu	2022 - Rotates to President
Wes Everman	Vice President	wesley_everman@ncsu.edu	2022 - Rotates to President-Elect
Larissa Smith	Treasurer	larissa.smith@syngenta.com	2025 - need to elect apprentice in 2024
Art Gover	Past President	aeg2@psu.edu	2022 - Rotates off the board
Committee Chairs			
Thierry Besancon	Membership Chair	thierry.besancon@rutgers.edu	2022
Lane Heimer	Editor	lane.heimer@maryland.gov	2023
Maria Gannett	Graduate Student Rep.	mag449@cornell.edu	2022
Eric Jones	Graduate Studen Rep. Elect	eajone22@ncsu.edu	2023
Matt Cutulle	Research & Education	mcutull@clemsom.edu	2022
John Wallace	Sustaining Membership	jmw309@psu.edu	2024
John Kaminski	Public Relations	kaminski@psu.edu	2024

Committee List Continued

Rakesh Chandran	WSSA Representative	rschandran@mail.wvu.edu	2022
Hilary Sandler	CAST Representative	hsandler@umass.edu	2022
Lee VanWychen	Science Policy Director	Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net	NA
Program Committee for 2022 Meeting			
Jacob Barney	President Elect	jnbarney@vt.edu	
Wes Everman	Vice President	wes_everman@ncsu.edu	
Maria Gannett	Graduate Student Representative	mag449@cornell.edu	
Eric Jones	Graduate Student Representative	eajone22@ncsu.edu	
Agronomic Crops			
Vijay Singh	Chair	v.singh@vt.edu	2022
Ramon Leon	Chair-Elect	rleon@ncsu.edu	2023
Turf, Ornamental and Non-Crop			
Matt Elmore	Chair	matthew.elmore@rutgers.edu	2022
David Hillger	Chair-Elect	david.hillger@corteva.com	2023
Fruit, Vegetable and Tree Crops			

Committee List Continued

Kurt Vollmer	Chair	kvollmer@umd.edu	2022
Roger Batts	Chair-Elect	rbbatts@ncsu.edu	2023
Student Oral Papers			
Dan Kunkel	Chair, 2nd Past President	DanielK@amvac.com	2022
Poster Section			
Kate Venner	Chair	katelyn.venner@basf.com	2022
	Chair-Elect		
Site Selection Committee for 2024 (2023 Joint with WSSA - Arlington, VA)			
Wes Everman	Will be President Elect	wesley_everman@ncsu.edu	2022
To be named in 2022	Vice-President		2022
Larissa Smith	Treasurer	larissa.smith@syngenta.com	2025
Awards Committee			
Art Gover	Chair, Past President	aeg2@psu.edu	2026
Dan Kunkel	2nd Past President	DanielK@amvac.com	2025
Carroll Moseley	3rd Past President	carroll.moseley@syngenta.com	2024

Committee List Continued

Randy Prostak	4th Past President	rprostak@umext.umass.edu	2023
Shawn Askew	5th Past President	saskew@vt.edu	2022
Nomination Committee			
Lynn Sosnoski	Chair, Appointed by President	lms438@cornell.edu	2022
Michael Flessner	Appointed by President	flessner@vt.edu	2022
John Wallace	Nominated from the floor	jmw309@psu.edu	2022
Matt Cutulle	Nominated from the floor	mcutull@clemsun.edu	2022
Craig Austin	Nominated from the floor	craig.austin@syngenta.com	2022
Resolutions Committee			
Carroll Moseley	Chair, Appointed by President	carroll.moseley@syngenta.com	2022
Joe Neal	Appointed by President	joe_neal@ncsu.edu	2022
Jeff Derr	Appointed by President	jderr@vt.edu	2022

Committee List Continued

Collegiate Weed Contest Committee		
Jacob Barney	Chair, President Elect, Host in 2016	jnbarney@vt.edu
Caren Schmidt	President, Host in 2018	caren.schmidt@basf.co
Karrie Boucher	Host to Be 2022	karrie.boucher@syngenta.com
Francois Tardif	Host to Be 2022	ftardif@uoguelph.ca
Stacey Pickard	Host in 2017	
Dwight Lingenfelter	Host in 2014	DXL18@psu.edu
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Audit Committee		
Larissa Smith	Treasurer	larissa.smith@syngenta.com
Barbara Scott	Selected	bascott@udel.edu
Quintin Johnson	Selected	quintin@udel.edu
Archives Committee		
Art Gover	Chair	aeg2@psu.edu

Committee List Continued

Art Gover	Past President	aeg2@psu.edu
Photo Award Committee		
Hilary Sandler	Chair	hsandler@umass.edu
Erin Hitchner		erin.hitcher@syngenta.com
Art Gover		aeg2@psu.edu
Shawn Askew		saskew@vt.edu
Rakesh Chandran		rschandran@mail.wvu.edu
Thierry Besancon		thierry.besancon@rutgers.edu
Student Paper Awards Committee		
Dan Kunkel	Chair, 2nd Past President	DanielK@amvac.com
Art Gover	Past President	aeg2@psu.edu
Carroll Moseley	3rd Past President	carroll.moseley@syngenta.com
Randy Prostak	4th Past President	rprostak@umext.umass.edu
Shawn Askew	5th Past President	saskew@vt.edu
Poster Award Committee		

Committee List Continued

Anthony Witcher	Chair	awitcher@tnstate.edu
Kate Venner	Volunteer	katelyn.venner@basf.com
Matt Elmore	Volunteer	matthew.elmore@rutgers.edu
Chris Leon	Volunteer	chris.leon@fmc.com
Past President's Committee		
Art Gover	Chair, Past President	aeg2@psu.edu
Dan Kunkel	2nd Past President	DanielK@amvac.com
Carroll Moseley	3rd Past President	carroll.moseley@syngenta.com
Endowment Committee		
Art Gover	Chair, Past President	aeg2@psu.edu
Dan Kunkel	2nd Past President	DanielK@amvac.com
Renee Keese	Appointed by President	renee.keese@basf.com
Larissa Smith	Treasurer	larissa.smith@syngenta.com
Thierry Besancon	Membership Chair	thierry.besancon@rutgers.edu
Carroll Moseley	3rd Past President	carroll.moseley@syngenta.com

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Mark VanGessel	Volunteer	mjv@udel.edu
Jeff Derr	Volunteer	jderr@vt.edu
Hilary Sandler	Volunteer	hsandler@umass.edu
Student Paper Writing Contest - Judging Committee		
Rakesh Chandran	Chair	rschandran@mail.wvu.edu
Hilary Sandler	Volunteer	hsandler@umass.edu
Renee Keese	Volunteer	renee.keese@basf.com
Mark VanGessel	Volunteer	mjv@udel.edu
Jeff Derr	Volunteer	jderr@vt.edu



75th
1946 - 2021
Anniversary