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## NEWSLETTER NEWS

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### EWRS NEWSLETTER QUESTIONNAIRE

There is a questionnaire about the Newsletter and its content which is accessible only to members at the following web address: <http://www.ewrs.org/Newsletter/>

There are only a few questions and it will not take you more than 5 minutes to compile. You are kindly asked to give your opinion about the Newsletter, so that I can adapt the contents to your needs and wishes.

Thank you very much,

Camilla Moonen  
EWRS Newsletter editor  
[newsletter@ewrs.org](mailto:newsletter@ewrs.org) / [moonen@sssup.it](mailto:moonen@sssup.it)

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Colleagues,

This is the first time I am addressing you as President of EWRS. I am looking to serving as President for the coming two years and my hope is that we can continue the very high level of activity that the Society has experienced in recent years. First of all, however, I would like to thank Marco Quadranti for his hard work and enthusiasm during his two years as President. EWRS has undergone significant changes during his reign. Another person I would like to thank is Cesar Fernandez Quintanilla who has served the society as a very dedicated Secretary for the last 4 years. Cesar decided not to run for re-election due to other commitments.

Following the tightest decision in the history of EWRS HansJoerg Kraehmer from Bayer CropScience was elected as the new Vice-President of EWRS. The outcome of the elections for Secretary and Treasurer were more predictable with only one candidate running for each office. Andrej Simoncic from Slovenia will serve as Secretary for the coming four years and Ben Post from the Netherlands will continue as Treasurer. Congratulations to all the newly elected officers and a very warm welcome to the two new ones.

Our system with National Representatives has existed for many years, and I am convinced that they played an important role in earlier time. Nevertheless for many years the National Representatives have been virtually inactive. Last year the EWRS Board proposed to revive the role of the National Representatives and fortunately this change in the EWRS Constitution was approved at the General Assembly in Madrid in August last year. Following the approval elections were held in all countries with at least 4 EWRS members and new National Representatives were elected. Congratulations to all of you. I am looking forward to interact with all of you. The Board will from now on meet with the National Representatives at each EWRS Symposium to exchange views and ideas and to ensure that the Board is up-to-date on national initiatives etc. Also the National Representatives will later this year elect among themselves the 2 Additional Members of the Board and I am convinced that this will further strengthen the links between the Board and the National Representatives.

I hope that many of you are planning to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> International Weed Science Congress (5. IWSC) in Vancouver in June. The deadline for early registration is 1. March. Karl Hurlle is chairing the programme committee and many EWRS members are involved as session organisers or co-organisers. During the meeting of the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) a couple of weeks ago Karl Hurlle informed us that more than 480 abstracts have been uploaded on the IWSC web page.

EWRS has donated 10.000 EURO for awards to graduate students and young scientists. Similarly IWSS and WSSA have each donated 10.000 USD. We received 38 applications from all over the world and because of the generous donations from all 3 societies we were able to support 29 of the 38 applicants. EWRS is very proud to be able to support graduate students and young scientists and we are convinced that this is one of the best ways to spend the money of the Society.

As you will have noticed this Newsletter is the first one in electronic form. The main objective in moving from a paper to an electronic version is to reduce costs and instead allocate the money for scientific activities. As mentioned in the previous Newsletter it is important that the Membership Officer Ben Post ([ewrs@bureaupost.nl](mailto:ewrs@bureaupost.nl)) has you most recent email address if you want to receive an email alert when the Newsletter is published.

Per Kudsk

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## FROM THE BOARD

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### REPORT ON ELECTIONS 2007

Cesar Fernandez-Quintanilla, EWRS Secretary: [cesar@ccma.csic.es](mailto:cesar@ccma.csic.es)

The election process for National Representatives and various Board members was conducted following the guidelines of the new EWRS Constitution approved in Madrid in August. The original program of all the election process was considerably delayed due to this delay in approval of the Constitution (it was expected to have the new Constitution approved in June, after our General Assembly in Hammar).

In the case of National Representative Elections, elections ballots were sent out in August to all Ordinary, Sustaining and Honorary members. By the deadline of October 15th, 2007 altogether 159 members had returned the ballots. Therefore, the voting activity was about 29 %.

In the specific case of Board Elections, the ballots were sent out in December. The original delay caused by the late approval was amplified by technical problems during the process of printing and mailing the ballots. This fact generated considerable confusion. Numerous members received their ballots much later than the "official deadline" (December 10th, 2007). Mail delays associated to the Christmas holidays made the situation even worst and a continuous flow of ballots arrived to the Secretary during most of January. Under these circumstances it was totally unreasonable to maintain the original deadline and this was delayed until January 31st, 2008. In that date, a total of 220 members (40.4% of total membership) had returned the ballots. No further votes have been received thereafter.

### Results of the EWRS National Representative Elections 2007

The elected National Representatives for the period 2008-2011 were the following:

BELGIUM F. Henriët	GREAT BRITAIN B. Foud-Williams	LITHUANIA V. Pilipavicius	SPAIN A. Taberner
CROATIA E. Stefanic	GREECE P. C. Lolas	NORWAY J. Netland	SWEDEN L. Anderson
DENMARK N. Holst	HUNGARY G. Kazinczy	POLAND G. Skrzypczak	SWITZERLAND N. Delabays
FINLAND J. Salonen	NETHERLAND A. J. W. Rotteveel	PORTUGAL L. P. Dias Silva	TURKEY F. N. Uygur
FRANCE H. Darmency	ISRAEL T. Yaacoby	ROMANIA M. Berca	UKRAINE A. A. Ivaschenko
GERMANY B. Gerowitt	ITALY F. Vidotto	SERBIA S. Vrbničanin	

## Results of the EWRS Board Elections 2007

The number of votes received for the various candidates were the following:

### ***Vice-President***

Dr. Hansjoerg Kraehmer	109
Dr. Lazlo Radics	107

### ***Secretary***

Dr. Andrej Simoncic	180
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### ***Treasurer***

Dr. Ben Post	199
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Consequently, the newly elected Board members are:

Vice-President	Dr. Hansjoerg Kraehmer
Secretary	Dr. Andrej Simoncic
Treasurer	Dr. Ben Post

The Electoral Committee and the EWRS Board would like to acknowledge all candidates and congratulates the elected ones.

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN WEED RESEARCH SOCIETY

By Ben Post, Membership officer and Treasurer; [ewrs@bureaupost.nl](mailto:ewrs@bureaupost.nl)

The European Weed Research Society is an international organisation, established in 1975. The Society is open to everyone who has an interest in Weed Research and related topics. Its members come from governmental, commercial, university and independent research organisations: all have a particular interest in the many different aspects of Weed Science and its technology.

### ***EWRS Mission Statement***

To support the development of weed science and exchange of knowledge between weed scientists, with a primary aim of improving weed management systems, emphasizing the sustainable use of natural resources and protection of the environment.

### ***Membership***

The Society knows three types of membership: Ordinary Membership, Sustaining Members and Affiliated Member Organisations. Moreover the Society can offer an Honorary Membership to distinguished persons on proposal by the Executive Committee and elected for life by majority vote of the General Assembly. Honorary Members should be persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the object of the Society and have retired from fulltime professional work. The number of Honorary Members shall not exceed 10 at any one time.

**I Ordinary Member:** Any individual in Europe or elsewhere interested in the object of the Society and having declared their membership to the Secretary or the Membership Officer, with the following privileges:

- To attend and vote at the General Assembly thereby participating in policy making for the Society and its activities.
- To participate in the affairs of the Society and where appropriate to become member of the Executive Committee and other committees. Officers of the Society must be resident in Europe.
- To elect the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Scientific Secretary, and the 4 non-office holding members of the Executive Committee.
- To elect National Representatives for their own country.
- To elect 2 Ordinary Members who audit the Main Account of the Society.

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- f) To receive the audited report of the Society's finances presented by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Assembly.
- g) To submit proposals to the Executive Committee and/or the General Assembly.
- h) To receive and comment on reports on the activities of the Society and its Committees.
- i) To receive the Newsletter and other information relevant to the aims of the Society.
- j) To receive a personal copy of the Society's journal *WEED RESEARCH* free of charge or at a reduced price, as decided by the Executive Committee annually.
- k) After 1 year of membership to attend at reduced charges events organized by the Society and to have priority where there is a restricted attendance.

**II Sustaining Member:** organisations or individuals willing to provide financial support for the Society at or above a level set by the General Assembly and having declared their membership to the Secretary or the Membership Officer, with the following privileges:

- a) To participate in the affairs of the Society; In the case of an organisation, a representative shall be nominated.
- b) To attend and vote at the General Assembly thereby participating in policy making for the Society and its activities.
- c) To elect the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Scientific Secretary, and the 4 non-office holding members of the Executive Committee.
- d) To elect National Representatives for their own country.
- e) To elect 2 Ordinary Members who audit the Main Account of the Society.
  - I. To submit proposals to the Executive Committee and/or the General Assembly.
  - II. To receive the Newsletter and other information relevant to the aims of the Society.

**III Affiliated Member Organisation:** any national or international non-commercial organisation in Europe or elsewhere interested in weed research and wishing to co-operate in and be kept informed of the affairs of the Society and having declared their membership to the Secretary or the Membership Officer, with the following privileges:

- a) To nominate a representative to attend the General Assembly who shall not be eligible to vote.
- b) To participate in the affairs of the Society.
- c) To submit proposals to the Executive Committee and/or the General Assembly.
- d) To receive the Newsletter and other information relevant to the aims of the Society.
- e) Your Institute and address is printed in the EWRS Membership List. This list is published yearly.

All members are also offered the following services:

- Listing of your Institute in the Newsletter. There are four issues per year. You may add a paragraph of maximum 200 words to indicate the main goals of your Institute.
  - The costs are € 250,00 per year.
- List your Institute's name and logo together with other Sustaining Members on a special web page of the EWRS Website [www.ewrs.org](http://www.ewrs.org)
  - The costs are € 400,00 per year.
- Publication of an A4 "Full Page" advertisement of your Institute in the four issues of the Newsletter.
  - The costs are € 400,00 per year.
- Publication of an ½ A4 Page advertisement of your Institute in the four issues of the Newsletter.
  - The costs are € 200,00 per year.
- Publication of an advertisement on a special web page of the EWRS website [www.ewrs.org](http://www.ewrs.org)
  - The costs are € 750,00 per year.

Those who want to apply for the Ordinary Membership can register on our website [www.ewrs.org](http://www.ewrs.org). Please contact the EWRS Membership Officer ([ewrs@bureaupost.nl](mailto:ewrs@bureaupost.nl)) in case your Organisation wants to become a Sustaining Member or an Affiliated Member Organisation.

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## FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUPS

### AGE STRUCTURE OF EWRS UK MEMBERS

by Stephen Moss, Rothamsted Research; [stephen.moss@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.moss@bbsrc.ac.uk)

There has long been concern about the 'ageing' nature of weed scientists in the UK. That's not to say that anyone expects weed scientists to be immune from the aging process (nice though that would be), but rather that one would hope that 'new blood' would be coming in to replace the 'old blood' as it retires. While almost all weed scientists in the UK agree that this is an issue, there has been little hard data to back up this observation. Consequently I decided to conduct a survey in November 2007 of the age structure of UK members of EWRS.

I obtained information for 51 individuals and the assumption here is that no one lied about their age. In fact most of my initial guesses actually underestimated people's true age – and I doubt that many people lie about being older than they actually are. Maybe this means that studying weeds keeps you looking young, or maybe I'm simply not very good at estimating ages... Many thanks for everyone who responded to the somewhat personal question about their age – no one refused to answer. The results are summarised in Figure 1. The results show:

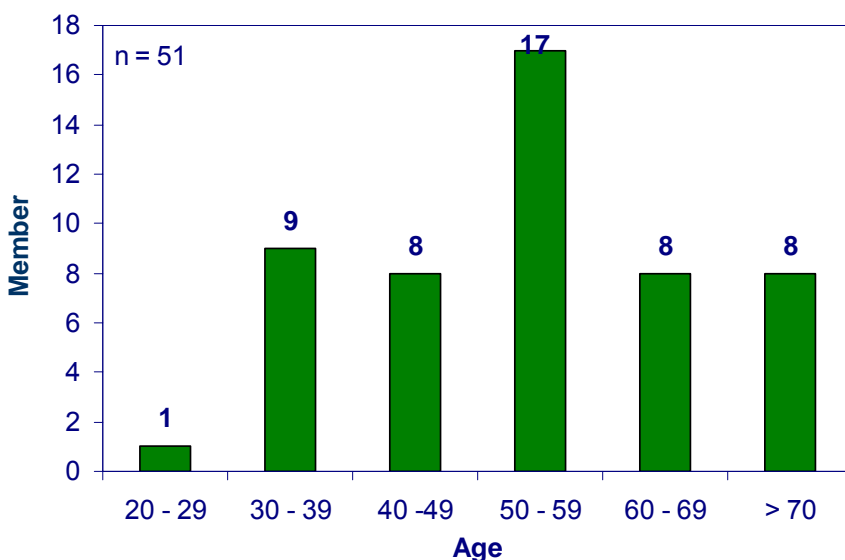
- The estimated mean age for a UK EWRS member is 54 years old.
- 65% of members are over 50 years old.
- 31% are over 60 years old.
- Only one member is under 30 years old – and he turned 30 in December!
- The largest single group is the 50 – 59 year olds.

Thus, there does seem to be a strong bias for UK EWRS members to be towards 'the upper end of the age spectrum', to put it diplomatically. Of course, not all people with an interest in weeds are members of EWRS, but the age profile for non-members is probably little different. It is also possible that younger weed scientists do not join EWRS because they are not actively recruited or have financial constraints, but this alone does not explain the bias.

Does this matter? Well I think it's of major concern. Without an increase in younger members, the profile will continue its movement to the right. Many of the people in the largest category (50 – 59) will retire in the near future and their expertise is likely

to be lost, rather than passed on to new recruits, as happened in the past. This process will soon become irreversible in the UK.

**Age profile of EWRS UK members**



It would be informative to gather such information for EWRS members in other countries, as well as for other weed societies worldwide. If anyone feels inspired to gather such information, then please let me know, as it would be useful to collate such data for several countries. It's only a case of E-mailing members within any country and asking for their age group – and you may well know this for many colleagues.

Based on survey conducted in November 2007 by Stephen Moss, Rothamsted Research

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## EWRS MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

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### SETAC WORK GROUP RISK ASSESSMENT: TERRESTRIAL PLANTS

By Jens Carl Streibig; University of Copenhagen, [jcs@life.ku.dk](mailto:jcs@life.ku.dk)

The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) is a non-profit, worldwide professional society comprised of individuals and institutions engaged in:

- the study, analysis, and solution of environmental problems
- the management and regulation of natural resources
- environmental education, research and development

At the SETAC Europe 17th annual meeting in Porto last May it was decided to establish a work group on risk assessment on terrestrial plant. More than fifty people responded to the initiative. The objective is: to develop options for higher-tier risk assessment for terrestrial plants, discuss their applicability and appropriateness in relation to different definitions for an overall protection goal.

Obviously, herbicides play an instrumental role in this work and therefore: we would like to invite members of EWRS who have expertise in the ecology and biology of weeds and plant competition to join the work group.

If you are interested in knowing more about the initiative and/or wish to join the work group please contact Jens C. Streibig, LIFE, University of Copenhagen, [jcs@life.ku.dk](mailto:jcs@life.ku.dk)

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## REVIEWS

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### WEEDS IN SOUTH TEXAS AND NORTHERN MEXICO

Book review by Camilla Moonen; EWRS Newsletter editor; [moonen@sssup.it](mailto:moonen@sssup.it)

James H. Everitt, Robert I. Lonard and Christopher R. Little have put together a photographic guide for identification of the most common weed species in South Texas and Northern Mexico. As with any identification guide, it is difficult to find the right balance between the provision of enough scientific details to allow for accurate identification and the practical applicability of the information by weed managers. The glossary certainly helps less profound botanists to understand the species' description. Seen the absence of an identification key, the choice to order species alphabetically is not the most practical one. It means that users need to have a clear idea about the family the species belongs to, otherwise all 186 pages have to be examined. Since identification is possible only in the flowering stage, may be a grouping based on flower colour would have simplified identification. From the weed manager's point of view, grouping of weeds according to the main crop they are associated with could have been another option.

Although most of the species in this guide are not present in Europe, it offers some interesting aspects. For example, each species is accompanied by general information (if available) regarding its origin, toxicity to humans or cattle, and possible biocontrol agents. Likewise, crop pests and pathogens associated to the weed species are indicated. For *Helianthus annuus*, *Arundo donax*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Poa annua*, and *Sorghum halepense* an extensive list of viruses, fungi, nematodes and arthropods found to be hosted by these species in Texas is presented in appendices. The last appendix includes chemical and cultural control methods for some monocot and dicot weeds in this area.

Weeds in South Texas and Northern Mexico, 2007. J.H. Everitt, R.I. Lonard, Ch.R. Little. p. 240. Texas Tech University Press. ISBN: 978-0-89672-614-7. \$ 19.95;  
[www.ttup.ttu.edu](http://www.ttup.ttu.edu)

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## NON-CHEMICAL WEED MANAGEMENT: PRINCIPLES, CONCEPTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Book review by Camilla Moonen; EWRS Newsletter editor; [moonen@sss.up.it](mailto:moonen@sss.up.it)

Mahesh K. Upadhyaya and Robert E. Blackshaw have brought together major knowledge regarding non-chemical weed management from five different continents. This is important in view of recent increased awareness among the public and policy makers regarding the negative side-effects of agrochemical use on the environment and human health. The book consists of 12 chapters.

1. Prevention Strategies in Weed Management
2. Understanding Weed-Crop Interactions to Manage Weed Problems
3. Cultural Weed Management
4. Cover Crops and Weed Management
5. Allelopathy, a Potential Tool in the Development of Strategies for Biorational Weed Management
6. Biological Control of Weeds Using Arthropods
7. Bioherbicides for Weed Control
8. Mechanical Weed Management
9. Use of Non-living Mulches for Weed Control
10. Thermal Weed Control
11. Soil Solarization and Weed Management
12. Non-chemical Weed Management ? Synopsis, Integration, and the Future

The second chapter gives a sound scientific overview of various approaches to measure crop-weed interactions. This knowledge is of basic importance to better understand the potentialities and limitations of the single weed management techniques or of the more complex weed management programmes. A complete weed management programme should consist of preventive strategies, cultural methods and direct weed control techniques. In this regard, the first chapter about prevention strategies can be considered as the first part, the third (cultural weed management), fourth (cover crops) and fifth (allelopathy) as the second part, and chapters 6 to 11 as the direct weed control techniques.

The key to successful implementation of non-chemical weed management techniques, is **integrated** weed management. The single techniques are well documented for the various crops and regions, but the difficulties encountered with successful integration among them have to be overcome. Unfortunately the editors allude to the need for integrated weed management only on the very last page of the concluding chapter, without providing guidelines for balanced weed management programmes.

Furthermore, it is my very personal opinion that we do not have to ban agrochemicals, but that we have to learn to make good use of them. In an integrated approach, based on non-chemical methods of control, agrochemicals can play an important role in making these techniques more efficient.

Although they identify organic farmers and environmentally-friendly producers among their readership, the scientific level of the chapters makes this book less accessible to readers without a solid scientific background. The lack of an integrated approach makes the book little practical use, but it is a very valid reference work for the individual weed management techniques.

Non-Chemical Weed Management: Principles, Concepts and Technology, 2007. Eds. M.K. Upadhyaya and R.E. Blackshaw, p. 239. Published by CAB International. ISBN: 978-1-84593-290-9 (paper); ISBN 978-1-84593-291-6 (ebook). € 105,00; £ 75.00; \$ 130.00; [www.cabi.org](http://www.cabi.org)



## PHD THESIS SUMMARY

### Spatial analysis of weed patterns

Heijting, S., 2007. PhD thesis, Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands. With summaries in English and Dutch, 146 pp. Copies of this thesis can be requested by sending an E-mail to: [sanne.heijting@wur.nl](mailto:sanne.heijting@wur.nl)

Weeds in agriculture occur in patches. This thesis is a contribution to the characterization of this patchiness, to its analysis, and to its prediction, and some of its results may be useful for weed management.

Spatial patterns of six weed species monitored in contiguous quadrats are characterized, using Mead's test. Five of the six analysed weed species showed aggregation at several levels of scale. The only wind dispersing species, *Taraxacum officinale* was random at all scales. Next, 2-D correlograms were used to analyse spatio-temporal behaviour of weed patterns for 15 weed species groups throughout three years. *Chenopodium album*, *Chenopodium polyspermum*, *Echinochloa crus-galli* and *Solanum nigrum* were strongly aggregated and also exhibited the largest incidence and highest maximum weed density of the species studied. 2-D correlograms showed that patterns of *C. polyspermum* and *S. nigrum* were stable in location. Patches of one species, *E. crus-galli* appeared to shift from year to year.

The four patchy weed species, *C. album*, *C. polyspermum*, *E. crus-galli* and *S. nigrum*, showed consistent relations of moderate strength with soil variables (pH, texture fraction or organic matter) over the three years of study using Generalized Linear Models with a Poisson log link. Models with spatially uncorrelated and spatially correlated error terms were compared, using Taylor's power law (TPL) as a link function, resulting in modest decreases in model significance when the spatial correlation in errors was accounted for, and in a few cases, there were big differences in model significance. Spatial correlation remained in the residuals of the regression, demonstrating that factors other than the selected soil variables also contributed to the spatial correlation in the weeds.

Dispersal of weed seeds in fields by harvest and rigid-tine cultivator was studied in continuous maize using a range of plant species as model weeds. The rigid-tine cultivator significantly contributed to the dispersal in the driving direction, most likely by dragging plant material with seeds through the field. Irregularities were found in the tail of the dispersal kernels, probably as a result of deposition of plant debris in the headlands by machinery.

Taylor's power law was used to predict the weed free fraction in the field using spatially implicit weed count data. The general model gave accurate predictions for most weed species, but for some, e.g. *E. crus-galli*, a species specific model was required to achieve adequate accuracy.

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## CALL FOR COURSES

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### NON-LINEAR REGRESSION PROBLEMS IN WEED SCIENCE WITH FREE SOFTWARE R.

A workshop organised by the EWRS Working Group Education and Training  
Application for reduced fee

The workshop takes place Sunday 22 of June 2008, 8:00-16:00 in conjunction with the forthcoming International Weed Science Congress in Vancouver. The fee is 150 USD. Part of the workshop is based on the participants bringing their own data.

Non-linear dose-response curves are fundamental to understanding herbicide selectivity and efficacy. This principle can be extended to other branches of weed management, e.g. allelopathy, flame weeding, weed steaming, physical control, laser cutting, radiation, weed crop competition, growth curves, and germination curves.

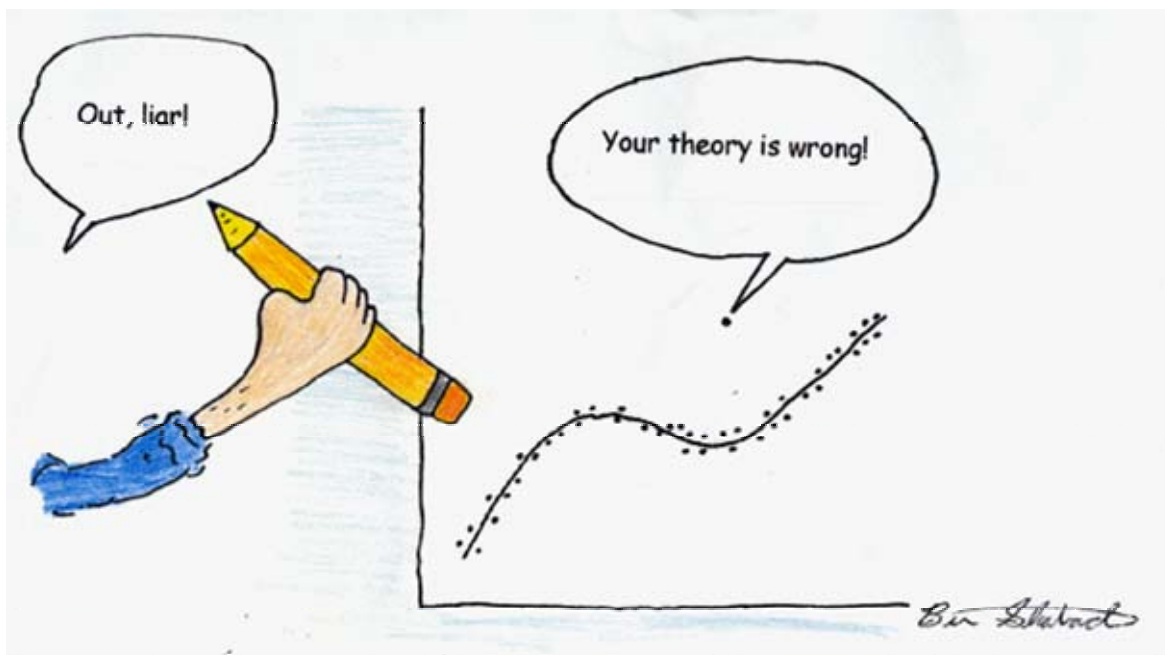
In order to encourage EWRS members, who are graduate students or young scientists, to take advantage of modern nonlinear statistical software to analyze and interpret experiments, you are invited to apply for a reduced workshop fee.

Please submit a short description of your research project(s) in relation to the objectives of the workshop (at: <http://iws.ucdavis.edu/Second%20Circular%20IWSC%20updated.pdf>)

The application should include a letter of commitment from the supervisor or institution to ensure that required additional travel and accommodation support is available if the participants succeed in getting the reduced fee. Application should be send by e-mail to Jens C. Streibig ([jcs@life.ku.dk](mailto:jcs@life.ku.dk)), Department of Agricultural Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Højbakkegaard Alle 13, DK-2630 Taastrup Denmark.

Early-bird registration: 1 March 2008  
Registration deadline: 31 March 2008

Kind regards  
Jens C. Streibig



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## CALL FOR CONFERENCES

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### 2008 INTERNATIONAL WEED SCIENCE CONGRESS

23-27 June 2008  
Vancouver, Canada

The Second Circular with updated information can be found on the IWSS web page:  
<http://iws.ucdavis.edu/5intlweedcong.htm>

#### Theme of the Congress

The theme of the 5th International Weed Science Congress is "Weeds – local problems/global challenge." It will contribute to the core goals of weed research and the empowerment of peoples to manage weeds more effectively for better livelihoods and for conserving global biological diversity. We expect to attract the attention of the agricultural community about the importance of weeds in the global economy and the particular needs to solve local weed problems in distinct agricultural systems.

#### Deadline Dates:

1 March 2008: Deadline for early-bird registration  
15 April 2008: Deadline for Standard Registration

#### Important Dates

23–27 June 2008: Congress  
22 June 2008: Workshop Statistical Assessment of Non-Linear Regression Models  
22 June 2008: Registration and Welcome Ceremony  
25 June 2008: Congress Excursion  
26 June 2008: Banquet  
27 June 2008: Closing Ceremony

The EWRS will actively contribute to this conference through financial support to young scientists and organization of scientific sessions by some of the Working Groups. The WG Education and Training will organize a workshop on 'Non-linear regression problems in weed science with the free software R' (see page 10 of this Newsletter) and there will be a young scientists award.

More information can be obtained by contacting Albert J. Fischer ([ajfischer@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ajfischer@ucdavis.edu)) or by visiting the web page <http://iws.ucdavis.edu/>

### ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS CONFERENCES

The following list of conferences has been proposed by the Association of Applied Biologists:

#### 8 April:

Workshop on Knowledge Transfer - Best Practice: Society of Chemical Industry, Belgrave Square, London, UK

#### 22 May:

Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Warwick HRI, Wellesbourne, Warwick, UK

#### 2-4 June:

Shaping a Vision for the UPLANDS: Sheffield Hallam University, UK

#### 10-12 September:

Resource Capture by Crops: Integrated Approaches: University of Nottingham at Sutton Bonington, UK

#### 10-12 December:

Biomass and Energy Crops III: Defra's Central Science Laboratory, Sand Hutton, York, UK

More information can be found on the following website:

[www.aab.org.uk/contentok.php?id=184&basket=wwsshowconflist](http://www.aab.org.uk/contentok.php?id=184&basket=wwsshowconflist)

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## ENDURE SYMPOSIUM – DIVERSIFYING CROP PROTECTION

12 – 15 October 2008

La Grande Motte, Montpellier, France

### ENDURE

ENDURE, European Network for the Durable Exploitation of Crop Protection Strategies, is a Network of Excellence (NoE) funded by the European Union under the Framework 6 programme. The purpose of ENDURE is a **durable restructuring of European research and development** in order to improve understanding of the biology of crop-pest interactions, combining analytical and system-based approaches, to encourage collaboration between biologists, agronomists, economists and sociologists in designing innovative approaches to crop protection. The knowledge generated will be transferred to all stakeholders: industry, policy makers, extension services, farmers and general public. More information on ENDURE can be found on the website:

[www.endure-network.eu/international\\_conference\\_2008](http://www.endure-network.eu/international_conference_2008)

The European Weed Research Society is present in the Network as part of the Crop Protection Network, and many of its members are involved in the various sub-activities carried out within ENDURE related to weed management.

The ENDURE Symposium aims to enhance knowledge transfer related to sustainable crop protection between the Network and the wider scientific community involved in these topics. It is structured in plenary sessions and specialised sessions evolving around three main thematic: 1) Implementation: applying existing tactics & strategies, 2) Innovation: building innovative strategies for tomorrow, and 3) Impact and governance: assessing progress toward sustainable development

### Plenary sessions

- Global challenges of crop protection and food safety in the larger context of sustainable and ecological agriculture.
- Perspectives of a variety of stakeholder groups.

### Specialised sessions

Specialised sessions will be devoted to various aspects of the durable exploitation of crop protection strategies for sustainable agriculture.

#### 1) Implementation: applying existing tactics & strategies

- Specific tactics (monitoring pesticides, plant genetic resistance, biocontrol agents, semiochemicals and push-pull strategies, crop management, pest prevention and prophylaxy...)
- Implementing IPM strategies (combination of tactics)
- Boosters, barriers (biological, ecological, socio-economics...)

#### 2) Innovation: building innovative strategies for tomorrow

- Basic knowledge (pesticide resistance, populations genetics, plant resistance genes, resistance mechanisms, plant-pest interactions...)
- Holistic and large-scale approaches (community ecology, agroecosystems, landscape ecology, invasive-emerging pests and diseases...)
- Innovative technologies (robotics, nanotechnologies, precision agriculture...)
- Innovation tools (diagnostic, modelling, decision support systems...)

#### 3) Impact and governance: assessing progress toward sustainable development

- Surveillance of pest incidence
- Historical evolutions
- Eco-toxicology
- Environmental assessment
- Life-cycle assessment
- Socio-economic driving forces (public policies, regulations, long-term economics)
- Societal assessment (public, farmers, governance...)

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## Abstract submission

The results of scientific work will be presented in the form of oral presentations and posters. The official conference language is English. Abstracts must be submitted in electronic form : 2 pages for posters (6,000 char), 3 pages for oral presentations (9,000 char). The members of the Scientific Committee will choose a number of works to be proposed as oral presentations. Posters will be on display throughout the congress. For information regarding the scientific programme, please contact:

[confEndure2008@cirad.fr](mailto:confEndure2008@cirad.fr)

## The Venue

The venue of the Conference will be the Congress Palace at the seaside resort of La Grande Motte. La Grande Motte is 20 km from Montpellier, on the edge of the famous Camargue wetlands park, and is most easily served by the Montpellier airport and TGV station. In mid October, one can expect mild weather (max/min 70/50°F; 21/10°C) with sunshine and a below-average chance of rain.



## Important dates:

- 30 April 2008: deadline for submission of abstracts
- 15 June 2008: notification of accepted oral presentations and posters
- 12-15 October 2008: ENDURE international conference

## 2ND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 'INTRACTABLE WEEDS AND PLANT INVADERS'

Osijek, Croatia  
14 – 18 September 2008

It is our great pleasure to invite you to attend the 2nd International Symposium 'Intractable Weeds and Plant Invaders' that will be held in Osijek, Croatia, at the J.J. Strossmayer University, Faculty of Agriculture, from 14 to 18 September 2008. The Symposium will be organized by EWRS working groups Invasive plants, Biological Control of Weeds and Weed Management in Arid and Semi-arid Climates together with the local organizers: J.J. Strossmayer University in Osijek - Faculty of Agriculture - Dept. of Plant Protection and Technology Development Center.

A wide variety of topics will be covered during the Symposium:

- Invasive plants: biology and ecology
- Impact: agriculture, biodiversity, human health, environmental hygiene, environmental and economic aspect, regulatory framework
- Control measures: chemical control, biological control, mechanical control, control of invasive weeds in arid and semiarid environment, herbicide resistant (invasive) weeds
- Methods: standardization, quality control, statistics, techniques and information technology

The Symposium website will provide you with general information on the conference and details on registration, accommodation and abstract submission. Information on the Symposium will be updated from time to time and will appear regularly on the Symposium web site:

[www.tera.hr/ewrs-osijek-2008](http://www.tera.hr/ewrs-osijek-2008)

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Important dates and deadlines:

- 31 January 2008 - deadline for registration and title submission
- 1 May 2008 – deadline for abstract submission
- 30 June 2008 – deadline for early registration fee

Looking forward to meeting you in Osijek!  
Edita Stefanic

Faculty of Agriculture  
Trg Svetog Trojstva 3  
HR-31000 Osijek, Croatia  
Tel: +385 31 224 287  
Fax: + 385 31 207 017  
[estefanic@pfos.hr](mailto:estefanic@pfos.hr)

## EWRS-WORKSHOP ON PERENNIAL WEEDS

10-12 November 2008  
Wageningen, The Netherlands

### Rationale

Perennials are identified as an upcoming and increasing weed problem in European agriculture. This is however not yet reflected in the current weed research agenda. Work is going on, but often the activities are modest and very scattered. To be better able to appreciate what has been established, what is going on and what still needs to be done the EWRS (European Weed Research Society), in collaboration with the NJF (Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists), is organizing a 3-day workshop on this topic. Main objectives of the meeting are:

- To identify and detail the perennial weed problem
- To update our current understanding of the biology and ecology of perennial weeds
- To make an inventory of current control options and management strategies
- To inform one another on ongoing research projects
- To discuss future research needs and prospects for collaboration

### Workshop venue

The meeting will be held from November 10 – 12, 2008 in the WICC in Wageningen. The kick off will be on Monday afternoon to allow participants to travel to Wageningen on Monday-morning. Likewise, the meeting will close early Wednesday-afternoon. Various sessions with oral and (depending on the number of contributors) poster presentations will be held. A limit is set to the number of participants, as 40 is the maximum number we can accommodate.

### Registration and abstracts

Registration for the workshop is possible until July 15. Registration for the workshop is possible by sending an e-mail to [henriette.drenth@wur.nl](mailto:henriette.drenth@wur.nl). For those who are interested in giving a presentation, an abstract with a maximum length of one A4-page should be included. Attendance of the workshop is free of charge and includes lunch (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) and diner (Monday and Tuesday).

For attendees from abroad, you will have to arrange your own accommodation at WICC. This can be done through internet at [www.wicc.nl](http://www.wicc.nl). On the home page click on **Contact** and select **Room reservation request**. Fill in the required details and the days you want to make your reservation for. Under **Name congress** fill in: Perennial weed workshop. Prices are € 75,- for a single room per night, including breakfast. For a double room € 98,50 is charged.

On behalf of the organizing committee,  
Lammert Bastiaans ([lammert.bastiaans@wur.nl](mailto:lammert.bastiaans@wur.nl))  
Ilse A. Rasmussen  
Jukka Salonen  
Rommi van der Weide

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## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

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### EWRS WORKING GROUP MEETING CROP-WEED INTERACTIONS

26 – 28 March 2008.  
Seville, Spain

[lammert.bastiaans@wur.nl](mailto:lammert.bastiaans@wur.nl)

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### IOBC/WPRS 'LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT FOR FUNCTIONAL BIODIVERSITY'

14 – 17 May 2008  
Bordeaux, France

[http://www.iobc-wprs.org/wg\\_sg/index.html](http://www.iobc-wprs.org/wg_sg/index.html)

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### XXXVIII CONGRESS OF THE FRENCH PESTICIDE GROUP (GFP) 27 – 30 MAY 2008

21 – 23 May 2008  
Brest, France

[congres.gfp@idhesa.fr](mailto:congres.gfp@idhesa.fr) / [gael.durand@idhesa.fr](mailto:gael.durand@idhesa.fr)

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### WEEDS ACROSS BORDERS CONFERENCE

27 – 30 May 2008  
Banff, Alberta, Canada

<http://www.invasiveplants.ab.ca/>

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### INTERNATIONAL WEED SCIENCE CONGRESS

23 – 27 June 2008  
Vancouver, Canada

<http://iws.ucdavis.edu/5intlweedcong.htm>

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### EWRS-MEETING OF WORKING GROUP GERMINATION AND EARLY GROWTH

15-16 October 2008  
Perugia, Italy

[ilsea.rasmussen@agrsci.dk](mailto:ilsea.rasmussen@agrsci.dk); <http://www.ewrs.org/GEGWG/index.html>

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### 2ND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 'INTRACTABLE WEEDS AND PLANT INVADERS'

14 – 18 September 2008  
Osijek, Croatia

[www.tera.hr/ewrs-osijek-2008](http://www.tera.hr/ewrs-osijek-2008)

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### ENDURE SYMPOSIUM – DIVERSIFYING CROP PROTECTION

12 – 15 October 2008  
La Grande Motte, Montpellier, France

<http://www.endure-network.eu/>

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### 8<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PESTS IN AGRICULTURE

22 – 23 October 2008  
Montpellier SupAgro, France

<http://www.afpp.net>

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### EWRS-WORKSHOP ON PERENNIAL WEEDS

10-12 November 2008  
Wageningen, The Netherlands

[lammert.bastiaans@wur.nl](mailto:lammert.bastiaans@wur.nl)

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## EDITORIAL

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### INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

**Deadline for contributions to be published in the following Newsletter issue:  
1 APRIL 2008**

#### Photographic images

It is possible to include photographic material. Photographs can be processed and scanned. Pictures can be sent as negatives, positives (slides with and without frames) and as original pictures. The easiest to handle are digital pictures, which can be reproduced of a higher quality within the Newsletter. Please make sure that these images are taken at no less than 300 dpi otherwise the picture quality drops.

#### Questions

If you have any problems in the product of your article, please do not hesitate to contact me. I'll be happy to assist you. As Technical Editor of the Newsletter, I prepare the final layout of the Newsletter prior to publishing. You can contact me by sending an E-mail to [newsletter@ewrs.org](mailto:newsletter@ewrs.org) / [moonen@sssup.it](mailto:moonen@sssup.it) or by calling me at +39 050 883567. I'm looking forward to receiving your contributions.

Camilla Moonen.

### CHARGES FOR ADVERTISING MATERIAL IN THE NEWSLETTER

#### Advertisements in the Newsletter

The rate for an advertisement in all four editions of a year is € 400,00 / year / page. Reductions can be negotiated with the Newsletter editor for half page adverts. Maximum 4 pages of adverts in each issue.



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Vice President 2008-2009	Dr. HansJoerg <b>KRAEHMER</b> BayerCropSciences AG Industriepark Hoechst H 872 D-65926 Frankfurt am Main	T +49 69 305 2732 F +49 69 305 7342 <a href="mailto:Hansjoerg.Kraehmer@bayercropscience.com">Hansjoerg.Kraehmer@bayercropscience.com</a>
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Scientific Secretary 2006-2009	Prof. Dr. Paolo <b>BÀRBERI</b> Land Lab Scuola Superiore Sant' Anna Piazza Martiri della Libertà 33 I-56127 PISA	T + 39 050 883 525 F + 39 050 883 512 <a href="mailto:barberi@sssup.it">barberi@sssup.it</a>
Membership Officer	Drs. Ben <b>POST</b> EWRS Membership Office Postbus 28 NL-6865 ZG DOORWERTH	F + 31 26 3706896 <a href="mailto:ewrs@bureaupost.nl">ewrs@bureaupost.nl</a>
Additional Members 2006-2009	Dr. rer. nat. Thomas <b>EGGERS</b> Am Beek 7 D-38108 BRAUNSCHWEIG	T + 49 5309 5858 F + 49 5309 5858 <a href="mailto:eggers.thomas@freenet.de">eggers.thomas@freenet.de</a>
2006-2009	Dr. Jukka <b>SALONEN</b> MTT Agrifood Research Finland Plant Protection FIN-31600 JOKIOINEN	T + 358 3 41882483 F + 358 3 41882584 <a href="mailto:jukka.salonen@mtt.fi">jukka.salonen@mtt.fi</a>
2004-2007	Prof. Dr. Bärbel <b>GEROWITT</b> University of Rostock Insitute for Land Use Satower Str. 48 D-18051 ROSTOCK	T + 49 381 498 2200 F + 49 381 498 2199 <a href="mailto:baerbel.gerowitt@auf.uni-rostock.de">baerbel.gerowitt@auf.uni-rostock.de</a>
2006-2007	Prof. Dr. Adam <b>DOBZANSKI</b> Institute Vegetable Crops Weed Science Lab Ul Konstytucji 3 Maja 1/3 PL-96-100 SKIERNIEWICE	T + 48 46 8334271 F + 48 46 8333186 <a href="mailto:adobrzan@inwarz.skierniewice.pl">adobrzan@inwarz.skierniewice.pl</a>
WEED RESEARCH Chairman Editorial Board	Dr Andrea <b>GRAHAM</b> National Farmers' Union Agriculture House, Stoneleigh Park, GB-STONELEIGH CV8 2LZ	T + 44 24 7685 8534 F + 44 24 7685 8535 M + 44 781 367 0645 <a href="mailto:Andrea.Graham@nfu.org.uk">Andrea.Graham@nfu.org.uk</a>

## EWRS SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Chairman / EWRS Vice-President  
2008-2009

Dr. HansJoerg **KRAEHMER**  
BayerCropSciences GmbH  
Institute of Herbicide Research and Phyto regulators  
Industriepark Hoechst  
H 872  
D-65926 Frankfurt am Main

T +49 69 305 2732  
F +49 69 305 7342  
[Hansjoerg.Kraehmer@bayercropscience.com](mailto:Hansjoerg.Kraehmer@bayercropscience.com)

Scientific Secretary  
2006-2009

Prof. Dr. Paolo **BÄRBERI**  
Land Lab, Scuola Superiore Sant' Anna  
Piazza Martiri della Libertà 33  
IT-56127 PISA

T + 39 050 883 525  
F + 39 050 883 512  
[barberi@sssup.it](mailto:barberi@sssup.it)

EWRS President  
2008-2009

Hr. Per **KUDSK**  
University of Aarhus  
Dept of Integrated Pest Management  
Forsøgsvej 1  
DK-4200 SLAGELSE

T + 45 8999 1900  
[per.kudsk@agrsci.dk](mailto:per.kudsk@agrsci.dk)



**Picture 1. The EWRS Board**

From left to right: Bärbel Gerowitt, Paolo Bärberi, Adam Dobrzanski, Andrea Grundy, Marco Quadranti, Per Kudsk, Cesar Fernandez-Quintanilla, Jukka Salonen, Bob Froud-Williams, Thomas Eggert and Ben Post (picture by Marco Quadranti)

## EWRS WORKING GROUPS

Biological Control of Weeds	Dr. Paul HATCHER The University of Reading, School of Plant Sciences TOB 2, Earley Gate GB-READING RG6 6AU	T + 44 118 931 6369 F + 44 118 378 7464 <a href="mailto:p.e.hatcher@rdg.ac.uk">p.e.hatcher@rdg.ac.uk</a>
Crop / Weed Interactions	Dr. Lammert BASTIAANS Wageningen University, Dept. Crop and Weed Ecology Postbus 430 NL-6700 AK WAGENINGEN	T + 31 317 48 4770 F + 31 317 48 5572 <a href="mailto:lammert.bastiaans@wur.nl">lammert.bastiaans@wur.nl</a>
Education and Training	Prof. Dr. Jens Carl STREIBIG The Royal Veterinary & Agric. University, Dept. Agricultural Sciences Thorvaldsvej 40 DK-1871 FREDERIKSBERG C	T + 45 3528 3457 F + 45 3528 2175 <a href="mailto:jcs@kvl.dk">jcs@kvl.dk</a>
Germination and Early Growth	Hr. Ilse Ankjær Rasmussen University of Aarhus Dept of Integrated Pest Management Forsøgsvej 1 DK-4200 SLAGELSE	T + 45 8999 1900 <a href="mailto:ilsea.rasmussen@agrsci.dk">ilsea.rasmussen@agrsci.dk</a>
Herbicide Resistance	Ms. Anne THOMPSON Dow AgroSciences Latchment Court Brand Street GB-HITCHIN , Herts, SG1 1NH	T + 44 1462 457272 F + 44 1462 426664 <a href="mailto:anthompson@dow.com">anthompson@dow.com</a>
Invasive Plants	Mr Christian BOHREN Swiss Agricultural Research Station, Agroscope Changins-Wädenswil (ACW) P.O. Box 1012 CH-1260 NYON 1	T + 41 22 363 44 25 F + 41 22 363 43 94 <a href="mailto:christian.bohren@rac.admin.ch">christian.bohren@rac.admin.ch</a>
Optimisation of Herbicide Dose	Hr. Per KUDSK University of Aarhus, Dept of Integrated Pest Management Forsøgsvej 1 DK-4200 SLAGELSE	T + 45 8999 1900 <a href="mailto:per.kudsk@agrsci.dk">per.kudsk@agrsci.dk</a>
Parasitic Weeds	Dr. Maurizio VURRO Istituto di Scienze delle Produzioni Alimentari – CNR Via Amendola 122/O IT-70125 BARI	T + 39 080 5929331 F + 39 080 5929374 <a href="mailto:maurizio.vurro@ispa.cnr.it">maurizio.vurro@ispa.cnr.it</a>
Physical and Cultural Weed Control	Hr. Bo MELANDER University of Aarhus, Dept of Integrated Pest Management Forsøgsvej 1 DK-4200 SLAGELSE	T + 45 8999 1900 <a href="mailto:bo.melander@agrsci.dk">bo.melander@agrsci.dk</a>
Site-Specific Weed Management	Prof. Dr. Svend CHRISTENSEN Inst. of Chemical Eng., Biotechnology and Environmental Tech. University of Southern Denmark Niels Bohrs Allé 1 DK-5230 ODENSE M	T + 45 6550 7361 F + 45 6550 7454 <a href="mailto:svc@kbm.sdu.dk">svc@kbm.sdu.dk</a>
Weed Management Systems in Vegetables	Prof. Dr. Francesco TEI University of Perugia, Dept. of Agroenviromental and Crop Sciences Borgo XX Giugno 74 IT-06121 PERUGIA	T + 39 075 585 63 20 F + 39 075 585 63 44 <a href="mailto:f.tei@unipg.it">f.tei@unipg.it</a>
Weeds and Biodiversity	Prof. Dr. Bärbel GEROWITT University of Rostock, Insitute for Land Use Satower Str. 48 DE-18051 ROSTOCK	T + 49 381 498 2200 F + 49 381 498 2199 <a href="mailto:baerbel.gerowitt@auf.uni-rostock.de">baerbel.gerowitt@auf.uni-rostock.de</a>
Weed Management in Arid and Semi-Arid Climate	Prof. Dr. Baruch RUBIN Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Dept. Of Agricultural, Food & Environmental Sciences I-761000 REHOVOT	T +972 8 948 9248 F +972 8 936 2083 <a href="mailto:rubin@agri.huji.ac.il">rubin@agri.huji.ac.il</a>

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