



## **2023-24 WSSA Standing Committee Report February 2024**

Committee Name and Code: **Weeds in Specialty Crops (E10)**

Committee Chair: **Brad Hanson, UC Davis**

Committee Members (includes sub-committee members):

- **Brad Hanson (chair 21-23), Lynn Sosnoskie (chair 24-26), Thierry Besancon, Kurt Vollmer, Calvin Otero, Cheryl Dunne, Katie Jennings, Stephen Meyers, Andrew Hulting, Darren Robinson, Marcelo Moretti, Nevin Lawrence, Roger Batts (ex-officio)**

Board of Directors Liaison: **Alan Helm**

Committee members rotating off and recommended replacements:

- **Andy Hulting and Sushila Chaudhari rotated off. Add Dan Kunkel to email list.**
- **Lynn Sosnoskie agreed to serve as new chair of the E10 committee.**
- **Recommend no further replacements at this time in order to shrink committee closer to operating guide recommendations and balance among regions.**

Summary of past year's activities including:

- **Committee goals.**
  - **The E-10 committee is largely a discussion forum among a geographically and crop/weed focus diverse group of specialty crop weed scientists. No significant activities specific to this committee were reported; however, discussion and coordination among members (and non-member colleagues) remain useful.**
  - **Added WSSA member from Canadian Weed Science Society to E10 committee during 2023 (D. Robinson)**
  - **The committee convened January 12, 2024 and discussed:**
    - Updates on IR4 program and projects relevant to weed scientists (R.Batts)
    - Update on DCPA registrations (D.Kunkel and R.Zollinger)
    - WSSA efforts related to Endangered Species Act and pending changes to labels and herbicide use limitations (M.VanGessel and B.Hanson). What

outreach materials would be helpful from the WSSA-ESA ad hoc committee? Committee members encouraged to participate in ESA session at upcoming WSSA meeting.

- The issue of “forever chemicals” or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are ingredients in some pesticides are under scrutiny in some states (e.g. Maine most recently) which could impact some specialty crop herbicides. L.Sosnoskie and T.Besancon raised this issue as an FYI to the group and to WSSA BoD.
  - Other issues raised for BoD
    - WSSA should continue to advocate for specialty crop funding in Farm Bill
    - Concern that pending ESA-related reviews will affect specialty crops due to delays in IR4 package submissions to EPA
    - Precision-applied pesticides and related regulations (or lack of) are confusing to regulatory agencies and something WSSA should help steer during input on new herbicide labels
    - Concern whether drift mitigation tactics designed for conventional aerial applications will be applied to UAV/drones when risk is likely considerably lower for these slower/lower/low-vol applications.
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- Committee accomplishments. **No specific accomplishments noted**
  - Impact of committee activities/accomplishments on membership, publications, policy, education, other, etc. **No specific impacts noted**
  - WSSA funds requested if any? **None**
  - Current state of the committee’s projects or activities? **Committee currently has no active projects or coordinated activities**
  - Any new information posted on the WSSA website? **No new information posted on website by E10 committee**

Summary of plans for next year (changes in goals, key initiatives, plan of action, etc.): **None noted**

Recommendations for Board or Membership action (funds or other requests): **No Board or Membership action recommended by E10 committee**