

WSSA/EPA Liaison Report, Mark VanGessel
WSSA Fall Board Meeting, February 21, 2022

EPA Update

Agency personnel are still working remotely, and I have not been able to meet anyone in-person.

Bill Chism retired from EPA.

John Orlowski is my main contact at EPA, monthly phone updates

Have been on Plant Tech Team Discussion calendar list, but due to propriety nature of these discussions have not been able to participate

Recent activities

Coordinated speakers as part of the EPA's monthly seminar series.

- Hilary Sandler from University of Massachusetts-Amherst presented in October on cranberry production and cranberry weed management
- Joe Neal from North Carolina State University spoke on Weed Management for Ornamentals and Nursery Production
- Shawn Askew from Virginia Tech has agreed to present in April on weed management in turf

Publicized WSSA events with contacts within EPA

EPA/WSSA Endangered Species Act Seminar

NEWSS meeting for January 2022 was cancel, at least 2-3 EPA employees had registered to attend.

Enlist was the EPA's first herbicide registration under the Endangered Species Act integration. Counties with endangered species are prohibited from using Enlist products. All users need to implement mitigation factors through the use of a "pick list". Have heard from members (and experienced myself) that this has been communicated very poorly. Spoke to contacts within EPA and request they publish something that does a better job of explaining the process.

Thank you to the board for guest registration for EPA members to participate in this year's annual meeting. Something similar was done when WSSA met in Washington DC in 2018

Upcoming Activities

Discuss with EPA potential Weed Science-themed one-day outing in DMV area
with all working remotely there has been little traction on this topic