



Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we move into the heart of our winter season, academics are getting their courses rolling, Extension specialists are out sharing best practices and answering questions, researchers are developing new protocols and dreaming of being back in the field and, for many of us, wishing we could be heading to an in-person WSSA-CWSS joint annual conference in beautiful Vancouver,

British Columbia, Canada. Alas, we are pivoting for another year to a virtual meeting. As your President, it is heart-breaking for me to have to 'visit' with all of you in a virtual setting for the second year in a row.

Even though we will be virtual, we do have an exciting 2022 program that we will be providing for you. The program committee, chaired by Stanley Culpepper, President-elect, has developed a student-focused program for you to engage in, with no concurrent sessions. We will be having the 3MT MS and PhD presentations and CWSS student oral presentations in a live format on February 23 and 24, 2022. All posters and all other non-student presentations that are submitted will be available on the virtual platform to all who register for the annual meeting and accessible for the following 365 days!

We will be opening our annual conference on Tuesday afternoon, February 22 with our General Session and Society Awards Ceremony. Wednesday and Thursday, February 23 and 24, will be full of student presentations. On Thursday afternoon, February 24, we will wrap up with the WSSA Business Meeting and Student Awards. Support the graduate students by being a judge of a presentation or poster. Join us to hear and learn from outstanding graduate students in our societies.

Most standing committee meetings will take place prior to the annual meeting. If you are an active member on one or more committees, you should have already heard or will soon hear from the committee Chairs about scheduling these meetings. The current list of committee members can be found at <https://wssa.net/society/wssa-committees/> as well as committee reports from previous years. Contact the committee Chair if you wish to engage with a particular committee, and thank you in advance for your participation.

The WSSA Board of Directors meets on a quarterly basis to conduct business for the members. We had virtual meetings in April and July and a hybrid meeting in October on site at the Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver. Minutes of these BOD meetings are posted on our website once approved by the board.

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**VIRTUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 22-24
(details inside on page 3)**

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As we all have learned to navigate the world of virtual meetings, it has provided us some unique opportunities to share information more easily and to a broad audience. The recent WSSA-EPA webinar co-chaired by Stanley Culpepper and Bill Chism, on January 13, 2022, focused on the Endangered Species Act. This was an example of how we can bring important and relevant information to all those that are interested. This opened up the doors for understanding and new conversations on this important topic that impacts many in the Weed Science arena.

Our WSSA liaisons and representatives continue their important work. Building on a successful webinar series last year, WSSA will be hosting two webinars in March 2022 focused on updates on funding opportunities through USDA and NIFA. Thanks to our WSSA-NIFA liaison, Dr. Jim Kells, for organizing these two programs. Dr. Jill Schroeder is our representative with CAST, and a proposal for a new issue paper on "Preventing the next invasive plant: Opportunities and challenges" was accepted and a project task force is being created. Dr. Mark VanGessel is our WSSA-EPA liaison and Dr. Lee Van Wychen, our Executive Director of Science Policy, continues to keep the WSSA members and leadership aware of important policy topics and issues. All the presidents from the national and regional societies had the chance to visit with staffers of congressional house representatives from KS, TN, CO, ND, SD, and NC in early December. These 30-minute virtual meetings provide opportunities to highlight key issues and positions that we want to bring to the forefront of policies important to our WSSA members. More of Lee's activities are reported elsewhere in the newsletter.

The WSSA would not function without the significant work and efforts by the volunteers that step up and serve our members. I deeply thank everyone for continued work in support of the WSSA. I also need to thank our Executive Secretary and Meeting Manager, Eric Gustafson, as he is critical for all the work that we do. He and the group at Interactive Management, Inc., allow our organization to function smoothly. Thanks, Eric!

Several of our WSSA Board members will be wrapping up their terms at the 2022 WSSA Business meeting in February. First, Past-President Bill Curran will be able to not participate in anymore BOD zoom meetings for the foreseeable future (unless recruited to a new role). Thank you, Bill, for all your leadership and guidance to the WSSA over the past four years! One of our members-at-large, Dawn Refsell, has served on the BOD for the past four years and is finishing her term. Rakesh Chandra has served as the NEWSS representative and will rotate off the board. Thank you both for all your contributions!

Lastly, I want to introduce our incoming Board Officers who will officially start after the WSSA Business Meeting in February. Greg Dahl, WinField United, will be Vice-President, and Michael Flessner, Virginia Tech, will be member-at-large. We look forward to working with you!

It has been a roller-coaster ride as your President this past year. I was really hoping to spend time getting to meet and greet our WSSA members, but alas, I will 'see' you on zoom once again.

Sincerely,
Anita Dille
President, WSSA

WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

February 22-24, 2022
WSSA-CWSS Joint Meeting
Virtual (online)
www.wssa.net
and www.weedscience.ca

**WSSA HOME PAGE
ACCESSED AT:
www.wssa.net**

THINK NEWSLETTER
Deadline for April issue
March, 2022

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PROGRAM UPDATE

2022 Joint WSSA/CWSS Meeting

February 22-24, 2022

What a year! As we held out to the bitter end planning for an in-person annual meeting in Vancouver, CDC guidelines restricting travel in January ended our hopes. The in-person program was filled with nearly 370 title submissions offering diversity rarely observed. Transitioning the program to a virtual format has been a difficult task. Challenging our decisions are the high number of title submissions along with society members clearly noting in our fall survey that virtual fatigue must be avoided. To meet these challenges, our board decided to focus the live stream presentations on our students, the general session, and our business meeting and awards. All other presentations will be placed on our virtual platform being available for one full year to those who register.

Starting February 22 at 3:00 pm CST, our general sessions will include beekeeper Conrad Bérubé sharing his first-hand experience dispatching the first Asian giant hornet nest discovered in North America and Stephen Novak sharing lessons learned from the long-running battle with cheatgrass in the Pacific Northwest. Presidents Anita Dille (WSSA) and Marie-Josée Simard (CWSS) will collaborate on the presidential address. After their presentations, we will recognize our outstanding award winners and new Fellows & Honorary Members of the WSSA.

Our program will continue to run throughout the day on Wednesday, February 23 and Thursday, February 24 beginning at 9 am CST each day; sessions will not be concurrent, simplifying your ability to participate and maneuver through the program.

Arguably, the greatest downfall to a virtual meeting is the inability of our students to network, so please make sure to participate by supporting them and learning about their research.

On Wednesday, February 23, the Women in Weed Science networking event will take place from 11:15 to 12:15 pm CST. On Thursday, February 24, the WSSA Graduate Student Organization will be hosting their business meeting from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm CST.

Our meeting will conclude with the business meeting and oral and poster presentation awards occurring from 4:30 to 6:30 central time on February 24th. Pre-recorded oral presentations and PDF posters, including our student competition posters, will be available on the virtual platform once the meeting begins. The opportunity to visit these presentations is quite different than last year as you will have access to each presentation for a full year.

Additionally, we are working with our symposium organizers to set up 2 to 3 webinars that will be offered to our members throughout the year.

Stanley Culpepper, WSSA Program Chair and President-Elect

Harold Wright, CWSS 1st Vice President



Jerusalem, January 2022

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It gives us great pleasure to announce that the IWSS Board has decided that the 9th International Weed Science Congress (IWSC) will be held July 7-11, 2024, in Jerusalem, Israel. Please save the date. You are all welcome!

The IWSS Board and Local Organizing Committee are planning to establish a Scientific Program Committee (SPC), to offer an up-to-date scientific program including oral presentations and posters covering the most important issues in weed science. We will invite well renowned scientists to lead the wide range of topics and sessions.

In keeping with tradition, there will also be optional workshops and training courses before the congress starts, and you are welcome to propose topics. In addition, professional excursions encompassing the advanced Israeli agriculture combined with touristic attractions are planned, which will accommodate both scientists and accompanying persons to join and enjoy. We would like to emphasize that the congress is open to weed scientists from all over the world.

Geographically, Israel is a small country with vast diversity relating to architecture, archeological and biblical sites, from the Mediterranean coastal plain to mountains in the north and desert in the south. Israel's history dates back more than 3000 years and is home to many different religions.

Jerusalem is Israel's capital and largest city both in population and size. A holy city for three of the world's major religions - Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The city of Jerusalem and the Weed Science Society of Israel look forward to welcoming you. We are excited to have you experience the modern and historical aspects, and more, that Jerusalem has to offer. The perfect setting to combine science with social.

Welcome to Jerusalem!

Warm regards



Prof. Baruch Rubin, Chair

IWSC 2024 Local Organizing Committee



Prof. Hanan Eizenberg, Co-Chair

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WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

INFRASTRUCTURE BILL AUTHORIZES \$250 MILLION FOR DOT INVASIVE PLANT ELIMINATION PROGRAM

President Biden signed the infrastructure bill into public law (P.L. No. 117-58) on Nov. 15, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), [H.R. 3684](#). The House of Representatives passed the bill on a 228–206 vote on Nov. 5, while the Senate passed it on Aug. 10 with a 69–30 vote. The act allocates an estimated \$1.2 trillion in total funding over ten years, including \$550 billion in new spending during the next five years, divided between improving the surface-transportation network (\$284 billion) and society’s core infrastructure (\$266 billion).

Several notable provisions for invasive plant and invasive species management are included in the new law, including:

- **SEC. 11522. Invasive Plant Elimination Program.** Federal-Aid Highways. **\$250 million** total, \$50 million per year for FY 2022 thru FY 2026. The Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOT), through the Federal Highway Administration: *“shall carry out a program to provide grants to States to eliminate or control existing invasive plants or prevent introduction of or encroachment by new invasive plants along and in areas adjacent to transportation corridor rights-of-way.”*

The term *“invasive plant”* means a nonnative plant, tree, grass, or weed species, including, at a minimum: **cheatgrass, Ventenata dubia, medusahead, bulbous bluegrass, Japanese brome, rattail fescue,**

Japanese honeysuckle, phragmites, autumn olive, Bradford pear, wild parsnip, sericea lespeeza, spotted knapweed, garlic mustard, and palmer amaranth.

- **SEC. 40804. Ecosystem Restoration.** Through the US Forest Service, **\$200 million** total for the fiscal years 2022 through 2026 shall be made available 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.
- **SEC. 40907. Multi-Benefit Project To Improve Watershed Health.** Through the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the BOR Commissioner, in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, shall establish a competitive grant program to award grants to eligible applicants for the design, implementation, and monitoring of conservation outcomes of habitat restoration projects that improve watershed health in a river basin that is adversely impacted by a BOR water project by accomplishing 1 or more of the following:
 - (1) Ecosystem benefits.
 - (2) Restoration of native species.
 - (3) Mitigation against the impacts of climate change to fish and wildlife habitats.
 - (4) Protection against invasive species.

- (5) Restoration of aspects of the natural ecosystem.
- (6) Enhancement of commercial, recreational, subsistence, or Tribal ceremonial fishing.
- (7) Enhancement of river-based recreation.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL STALLED IN SENATE

On Nov. 19, the House of Representatives passed a \$1.75 trillion social and climate spending budget reconciliation bill, also known as the Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376). However, the bill failed to advance in the Senate prior to the holiday break after Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) announced that he would not support the bill.

While it is uncertain whether the Senate will pass it (and, if so, in what form), the [National and Regional Weed Science Societies are continuing to engage in the ag research and infrastructure provisions](#) in the bill. The Nov. 19 House passed version of the bill contains \$2 billion designated for ag research and infrastructure, which includes \$210 million for the USDA AFRI competitive grants program and \$120 million for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program.

A CONTINUING RESOLUTION FOR ENTIRE FY 2022 APPEARING MORE LIKELY

Congress passed a second continuing resolution that funds the government at FY 2021 levels until Feb. 18, 2022. Chatter from Capitol Hill indicates that a continuing resolution funding the government at FY 2021 levels for the entire 2022 fiscal year is

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an increasing possibility, especially if Congress passes the Budget Reconciliation bill. Operating under continuing resolutions creates uncertainties for agencies and limits their ability to plan for and initiate new programs such as those authorized in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the 2020 Water Resources Development Act.

BONNIE CONFIRMED AS USDA UNDERSECRETARY FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

On Nov. 16, the Senate voted 76–19



to confirm Robert Bonnie as the USDA Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation. In this role, he is now charged with the oversight of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

Bonnie, who has served as Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack's deputy chief of staff and senior climate adviser, is expected to play a key role in USDA's climate initiatives. Bonnie also served as the USDA Undersecretary for natural resources and environment in the Obama administration. In his work, Bonnie has written reports on climate change that included proposing the use of the Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA's line of credit at the Treasury, to address climate change problems.

Bonnie has also worked at the Environmental Defense Fund for 14 years and holds a master's degree in forestry and environmental management from Duke University, and a bachelor's from Harvard College.

CONNOR CONFIRMED FOR TOP ARMY CIVIL WORKS POST

Michael Connor, former commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation,



was confirmed on Nov. 4, by a 92–5 vote in the Senate, to be the next Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, which oversees all civilian work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Connor held the number-two position at Interior from 2014 to 2017 during the Obama administration. Before that, he was commissioner of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, from 2009 to 2014. Connor was a partner in the law firm Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP prior to his nomination. He also worked on Capitol Hill from 2001 to 2009, as counsel to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

STONE-MANNING CONFIRMED AS BLM DIRECTOR

On Sep. 30, 2021, Tracy Stone-Manning was confirmed



by a Senate vote of 50–45 to be the next Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Her nomination

proved controversial because a friend of hers, in 1989, was involved in tree spiking in Idaho's Clearwater National Forest. At the friend's behest, Stone-Manning wrote an anonymous letter to federal officials, informing them of the tree spiking and warning that "a lot of people could get hurt" if logging were to continue. In a 1993 federal court testimony, Stone-Manning admitted that she had retyped, edited, and mailed the letter. She received prosecutorial immunity in order to testify against her friend, who was found guilty and sentenced to 17 months in prison.

Stone-Manning was born in VA and earned a B.A. in radio, television, and

film from the University of Maryland and a M.S. in environmental studies from the University of Montana. From 1999 to 2006, she was the director of the Clark Fork Coalition in Missoula, MT and then worked for Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) from 2007 to 2012. Stone-Manning served as the director of the MT Department of Environmental Quality and then as chief of staff for MT Governor Steve Bullock between 2013 and 2017. Since 2017, she has worked for the National Wildlife Federation before being nominated by the Biden administration to serve as BLM Director.

BLM manages over 244 million acres, mostly in the western U.S., and is the largest federal land management agency. Unfortunately, over 79 million acres of BLM land is infested with noxious and invasive weeds, yet BLM only spends \$15 million per year to manage invasive species, which equates to a paltry 6 cents per acre! Let's hope the new BLM Director can direct a little more of the agency's \$1.3 billion towards a pro-active integrated weed management plan.

U.S. REGISTER OF INTRODUCED AND INVASIVE SPECIES (US-RIIS) NOW AVAILABLE

See: <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/6144f1ccd34e0df5fb95b5cb>

Abstract: Introduced (non-native) species that become established may eventually become invasive, so tracking introduced species provides a baseline for effective modeling of species trends and interactions, geospatially and temporally. The United States Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (US-RIIS) is comprised of three lists, one each for Alaska (AK, with 532 records), Hawaii (HI, with 6,075 records), and the conterminous United States (L48, with

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WASHINGTON REPORT CONTINUED from pg 6

8,657 records). Each list includes introduced (non-native), established (reproducing) taxa that: are, or may become, invasive (harmful) in the locality; are not known to be harmful there; and/or have been used for biological control in the locality.

To be included in the US-RIIS, a taxon must be non-native everywhere in the locality and established (reproducing) anywhere in the locality. Native pest species are not included. Each record has information on taxonomy, dates of introduction (where available; currently for 38%), invasion status (invasive or introduced), and ci-

tations for the authoritative sources from which this information is drawn. The US-RIIS builds on a previous dataset, A Comprehensive List of Non-Native Species Established in Three Major Regions of the U.S.: Version 3.0 (Simpson et al., 2020, <https://doi.org/10.5066/p9e5k160>).

There are 15,264 records in the master list and 12,981 unique scientific names. The list is derived from 5,951 authoritative sources, was reviewed by or based on input from 30 invasive species scientists and continues to be updated. Publication of version 2.0 of the US-RIIS is anticipated (but not

guaranteed) in approximately 12 months.

Citation: *Simpson, A., Turner, R., Blake, R., Liebhold, A., and Dorado, M., 2021, United States Register of Introduced and Invasive Species: U.S. Geological Survey data release, <https://doi.org/10.5066/P95XL09Q>*

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Protecting plant health essential to future prosperity and sustainability: New report

January 27, 2022 – Ottawa, ON

From farms to forests, Canada's plants face increasingly complex threats and protecting them is imperative to sustain the health and wealth they provide, according to *Cultivating Diversity*, a new expert panel report from the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA). Climate change has exacerbated existing risks, such as extreme weather events, disease, and predators, while the increasing global movement of people and goods, and evolutionary processes add to the threat, demanding a change in Canada's approach to protecting plant health.

Plants contribute nearly 3% to Canada's GDP and are the main sources of economic security for many communities. They are also essential to maintaining food security, environmental sustainability, and public health, and are of cultural, physical, and spiritual importance to people across Canada.

"Plants define our planet and play a crucial role in all our lives, but I don't think many people are aware of the extent to which they support us and other life on Earth," said Deborah Buszard, PhD, Chair of the Expert Panel. "They supply oxygen we breathe, make up the food we eat, help to generate soil, filter water, and are extensively used for medicines. Unless threats to plant health are recognized and effectively managed, we face risks that have the potential to be incredibly disruptive of ecosystems and put human and animal health, biodiversity, and food production in jeopardy."

Effectively addressing plant health risks is complicated by Canada's variety of management approaches, its naturally vast and diverse landscape, involvement in international trade systems, and shared responsibilities among various orders of government. While governments have traditionally handled most decisions related to plant health, wider collaboration would help to ensure Canada is better prepared for future risks.

According to the Expert Panel, connecting the research and work of academics, governments, Indige-

nous Peoples, NGOs, farmers, foresters, citizen scientists, and others can help mitigate and manage emerging risks. Knowledge created from the Indigenous stewardship of plants, which goes back thousands of years, can offer valuable insights, for example, into how plants adapt to environmental change. Technological innovations, such as breeding for hardier crop varieties, remote sensing, and precision agriculture and forestry, can also help mitigate the impact of climate change and pest outbreaks.

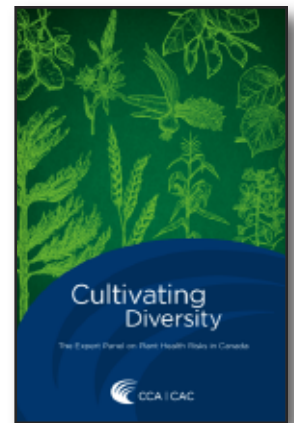
Protecting plant health is complicated by the interconnectedness of risks and a diversity of perspectives. *Cultivating Diversity* explores key areas of risk as well as strategies to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience.

"Plants are indispensable to life on this planet and the risks they face are complex and unprecedented," said Eric M. Meslin, PhD, FRSC, FCAHS, President and CEO of the CCA. "*Cultivating Diversity* details how an inclusive, connected, and responsive plant health system is key to addressing plant health risks in Canada."

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) asked the CCA to examine the most significant current and emerging risks to plant health in Canada.

Cultivating Diversity identifies existing and emerging risks to plant health in Canada and offers insights into promising practices that may help to mitigate them.

Visit www.cca-reports.ca to download the report.



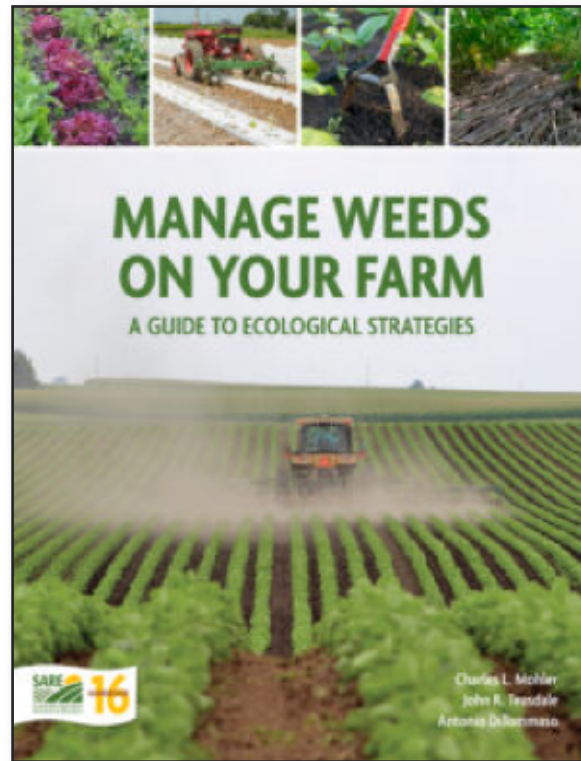
THINK NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for April issue
March, 2022**

Manage Weeds on Your Farm: An Ecological Approach

February 10, 2022

By: SARE Outreach



Sustainable weed management is essential for improving crop yield and increasing farm and ranch profitability. SARE's newest book, [Manage Weeds on Your Farm: A Guide to Ecological Strategies](#), examines the biology and behavior of common weeds and provides an integrated set of non-chemical control strategies that exploits their weaknesses. *Manage Weeds on Your Farm* will help organic and conventional farmers alike better understand and manage weeds efficiently, effectively and ecologically.

Manage Weeds on Your Farm features profiles of five farmers who use the physical, ecological and biological factors of common weeds to develop science-based management strategies appropriate for their operations. "In my opinion, this book has the best information on weed management that is available today," says Klaas Martens of Lakeview Organic

Grain of Penn Yan, N.Y. "Our understanding of weed control is still growing rapidly, and this book will certainly become an invaluable tool for every farmer who wants to control their weeds sustainably."

Manage Weeds on Your Farm: A Guide to Ecological Strategies is written by the late Charles L. Mohler, John R. Teasdale and Antonio DiTommaso; it is published by SARE.

Manage Weeds on Your Farm: A Guide to Ecological Strategies is free to read online or to [download as a PDF](#) at www.sare.org/weeds. Print copies can be [ordered online](#) for \$24 each, plus shipping and handling. Call (301) 779-1007 for telephone, tax-free, rush or purchase orders. [Discounts apply](#) for orders of 10 or more copies.

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
February 21–24, 2022	Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS) Joint Annual Meeting	Vancouver, British Columbia	www.wssa.net and www.weedscience.ca
March 7–10, 2022	Western Society of Weed Science Annual Meeting (WSWS)	Newport Beach, California	www.wsweedscience.org
December 5–8, 2022	North Central Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (NCWSS)	St. Louis, Missouri	www.ncwss.org
January 23–26, 2023	Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS)	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	www.swss.ws
January 30–February 2, 2023	Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS) Joint Annual Meeting	Arlington, Virginia	www.wssa.net and www.newss.org

Additional Weed Science Meetings and Events can be found at <http://wssa.net/meeting/calendar-of-meetings/>

THINK NEWSLETTER

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