



WeedScene

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Newsletter of the Weed Society of Victoria Inc.

July 2003

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WSV FIRST BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 20–21 August 2003

Developments in Weed Management

All Seasons International Hotel, Bendigo

◆ ◆ ◆ STOP PRESS ◆ ◆ ◆

BOOK NOW TO SECURE YOUR SPOT, SPACE IS LIMITED!

The aim of this series of conferences is to provide weed managers in Victoria, who would not normally be able to attend the Australian Weeds Conference, with a venue where weed issues relevant to Victorian conditions can be discussed.

This conference will be divided into four sessions: **Environmental weed management.** This session will examine the basis of environmental weed management including the development of weed management plans, the importance of mapping and the necessity of record keeping.

New weed incursions. Weed identification is essential to all weed management and it is vital in discovering new weed invasions. What weeds are there? How do we discover new weeds? Weed Alert – a system for discovering new weeds, its performance and preliminary results.

Weed control technologies. Weed control is central to weed management. What are the advantages and drawbacks of the available weed control techniques including mechanical, biological and cultural techniques.

Integrated Weed Management. What are the underlying principles of integrated weed management and how can IWM enable more efficient and sustainable weed control.

The format of these sessions will be based on invited presentations from key speakers who will provide a basic introduction to a topic. Conference delegates will then be able to discuss the topic under the leadership of the session Chairman.

Go to page 3 for a full rundown of the program and registration details.

WSV Travel Grants for 2004

The Weed Society of Victoria will provide funds for a Travel Grant to send two people to the Australian Weeds Conference to be held in Wagga Wagga in 2004. The Grant is to encourage members of the Society to attend the Australian Weeds Conferences, to increase their involvement in weed science and to promote the involvement of the Society in the conference. The recipients must be current financial members of the Society of more than one year's standing. The Grant will not be given to the same person more than once.

The Grant will cover the registration fee and the airfare to attend the Australian Weeds Conference, and will not exceed \$1500.00 per recipient. It will be made in accordance with guidelines to be published at the end of the year preceding the Conference, with the application to be in to the Society by the end of the March of the year in which the Conference is held. The recipients will be notified within two months of the close of the applications

and the information will also be placed in WeedScene, the Society's newsletter.

The submissions should be brief, include details of the applicant's weed-related work, research or applied; any involvement in the Society; presentation of paper or poster with title and page length summary; whether there is any other assistance to attend the Conference. The submission should also give reasons for travel, the benefits to the applicant and to the Society.

On returning from the conference the recipient will be expected to submit a written report within two months which will be suitable for insertion in WeedScene. It is to cover the highlights of the conference and the benefits gained by the recipient.

For application forms contact: The Secretary, Weed Society of Victoria, PO Box 987, Frankston, Victoria 3199. Phone/fax (03) 9576 2949 or email: secwssv@surf.net.au.

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WEED MANAGER FORUM

Viperware has set up a forum for the Weed Society of Victoria to assist the members and the committee.

Member's section – To allow the committee to hold polls to see what interest is out there for certain functions.

Committee section – To allow a regular flow of information between committee members on a number of topics (This will allow all committee members to have an opportunity to have an input if they are unable to attend Weed Society meetings).

Please go to: <http://weedmanager.net/cgi-bin/ikonboard.cgi> to see what is news and where discussions are at. You will notice when you arrive at the forum that you will require to register. For those already registered please use your existing account information.

You will notice the last forum on the list is 'Weed Society Committee Business' – this forum requires a password to enter and only the people who are members of the committee are allowed access.

ATSE Clunies Ross Award

Nominations are now invited for the ATSE Clunies Ross Award for 2004, providing an opportunity to reward and celebrate Australia's outstanding scientific achievers. Since 1991 this Award has recognized and honoured 74 people for their successful application of science and technology for the economic, social or environmental benefit of Australia. Nominations close on 31 July 2003. Award recipients will be publicly announced and presented with a silver medal at the Award Dinner in March 2004. Nomination forms and further information is available at www.cluniesross.org.au or by contacting Mary Bolger, Award Secretary, on (03) 9347 0622 or email maryb@atse.org.au.

Christmas Cruise

The Weed Society of Victoria is looking at organizing a cruise on Port Phillip Bay in December, as a Christmas breakup.

So put this date in your diary and watch out for further announcements:

Friday 6th December

Anticipated cost range \$25–30

BYO drinks

2 hour cruise, departing 7pm

CAWSS Annual Young Weed Scientist Travel Award

The Award will be made available annually, or less frequently depending on the standard of the application. Applications are invited from young weed scientists to attend national or international conferences or for specific overseas study tours of a short duration. The applications are to be submitted annually to CAWSS by affiliated societies. The Young Weed Scientist Travel Award will be made by 1st July each year for the following 12 months. Applications must be to the Secretary/Treasurer of CAWSS by 1 May each year.

The Award will be made to undergraduates studying in the fields of agriculture, biology, ecology, horticulture and forestry or related subjects, who have a wish to continue their studies in weed science. It will also be made to young weed scientists who have recently (within five years of finishing their degree) commenced employment in any branch of weed science. The Award will be open to anyone residing in Australia, but members of Societies affiliated with CAWSS may be given preference.

The Young Weed Scientist Travel Awards will be worth up to \$2000 per annum. They are not expected to cover the total cost of the Conference or study tour being undertaken and it will therefore be necessary for an applicant to ensure that other funding is available. Applicants attending conferences will be expected to give a presentation at the conference and to submit an abstract of their paper with their application. On return the successful applicant will be expected to give a report to the nominating Society, either as a written report for the Newsletter or as part of a seminar, meeting or workshop conducted by that Society. It will be part of the successful applicant's duty to pass on as much information as possible to the nominating Society and it is the right of the Society to specify the format of the report.

Applications are to be forwarded by 1 May each year to the appropriate Secretary/Treasurer of CAWSS. Application forms will be available from the Secretary of each Society.

State Prohibited Weeds

On the recommendation of the Minister for Environment, the Governor in Council under section 58(1) of the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 declares the plants listed in the Schedule below to be State prohibited weeds.

The Order applies to the whole of Victoria. Dated 20 May 2003. Responsible Minister: John Thwaites, Minister for Environment.

Schedule

Acacia karroo Hayne. Karoo thorn.

Acacia erioloba E.Mey. Giraffe thorn.

All species of *Equisetum*.

Fallopia japonica (Houtt.) Ronse Decr. Japanese knotweed.

Fallopia sachalinensis (F. Schmidt) Ronse Decr. Giant knotweed.

Fallopia × bohemica. (a cross between *F. sachalinensis* and *F. japonica*).

All species of *Hieracium*.

Nassella charruana (Arehave.) Barkworth. Lobed needle grass.

Nassella tenuissima (Trin.) Barkworth. Mexican feather grass.

Orobanche ramosa L. Branched broomrape.

Victoria Government Gazette G 21 22 May 2003 1221

EUREKA! AgResearch Pty. Ltd.



For further
information about
EUREKA!
contact:

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WSV FIRST BIENNIAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY 1 Wednesday 20 August 2003

SESSION 1 Environmental weed management

09.00–10.00 Weed management plans, what are their benefits and costs, what should be included, how do they operate over time. Lincoln Kern and Adam Muyt, Practical Ecology, Preston, Victoria

10.00–10.30 MORNING TEA

10.30–10.55 The basics of community weed mapping. David McLaren, Keith Turnbull Research Institute (KTRI), Frankston, Victoria

10.55–11.20 Weed mapping in Tasmania – experiences. Jamie Cooper, DPIWE, Tasmania

11.20–11.45 An assessment of the effectiveness of weed management programs. Cathy Allan, Dept of Sustainability & Environment (DSE), Melbourne

11.45–12.10 Computer assisted information systems in weed management. Jim Backholer, KTRI, Frankston, Victoria

12.10–12.30 Woody weed guides and property plans with records. Scott Boothey, Dow AgroSciences, Wagga Wagga, NSW

12.30–13.30 LUNCH

SESSION 2 New weed incursions

13.30–14.00 Weed identification, recognition of key environmental weeds and where to find information resources. Kate Blood, Dept of Primary Industries (DPI), Beaufort, Victoria

14.00–14.30 Key broadacre weeds and their identification. Alan Barnett, DPI, Horsham, Victoria

14.30–14.45 AFTERNOON TEA

14.45–15.15 What weeds are there? How to discover new weeds. Randall Robinson, Environmental Consultant, Cottesbridge, Victoria

15.15–15.45 What weeds are there? Weed alert performance, results and what can be achieved. Kate Blood, DPI, Beaufort, Victoria

15.45–16.15 The attributes for weediness and weed prediction locally and Victoria wide. John Weiss, KTRI, Frankston, Victoria

16.15–17.00 Poster session

CONFERENCE DINNER

DAY 2 Thursday 21 August 2003

SESSION 3 Weed control technologies

08.30–09.00 Mechanical weed control – tillage, soil structure and physical management for weed control. Jim Pratley, Charles Sturt University, NSW

09.00–09.30 Cultural weed control – management of wild radish: a case study. Ken Young, The University of Melbourne, Dookie, Victoria

09.30–10.00 Grazing management – use of stock to manage weeds. Bruce McGregor, Victorian Institute of Animal Science, Attwood, Victoria

10.00–10.30 Biological weed control in weed management in Victoria. Raelene Kwong, KTRI, Frankston

10.30–11.00 MORNING TEA

11.00–11.25 Chemical standards – what can and can't be done or the responsible use of herbicides. Alan Roberts, DSE Bendigo, Victoria

11.25–11.50 Basic herbicide formulations, use of adjuvants, emerging trends in formulation technology. Anthony Flynn, Eureka! AgResearch, Werribee

11.50–12.15 Application in riparian areas – considerations when herbicides are applied in tricky areas. Nigel Ainsworth, KTRI, Frankston, Victoria

12.15–12.35 Herbicide use for pastures and IVC situations. Lester Trevaskis, Spray Contractor, Murchison East

12.35–13.00 Herbicide application – guidelines for best practice. Peter Alexander, TeeJet Australasia, Geelong

13.00–14.00 LUNCH

SESSION 4 Integrated Weed Management

14.00–14.30 Underlying principles – ecological basis and reasons for IWM. Chris Preston, The University of Adelaide, Glen Osmond, South Australia

14.30–14.50 Case studies: *Blackberry IWM*. Adam Whitchurch, DPI Benalla, Victoria. *Horehound IWM*. Nigel Ainsworth, KTRI, Frankston, Victoria. *Serrated tussock IWM*. David Boyle, DPI Geelong, Victoria

15.30–16.00 AFTERNOON TEA

16.00–16.30 Economics: advantages and economic benefits of IWM, best management practices. Tereso Morfe, KTRI, Frankston, Victoria

16.30–17.00 Role of Weeds CRC: its functions and projects. Peter Martin, Weeds CRC, Adelaide

LOCATION The All Seasons International Hotel is located at 171–183 McIvor Road, Bendigo. It is situated approximately 3 km east of the fountain in central Bendigo on the road to Heathcote.

ACCOMMODATION Limited accommodation is available at the All Seasons International Hotel with prices ranging from \$115 to \$180 per person per night. If you wish to stay at the All Seasons International Hotel please book early. For assistance in booking other accommodation please contact the Bendigo Visitor Information Centre on phone 03 5444 4445, fax 03 5444 4447, email tourism@bendigo.vic.gov.au or visit their website at www.bendigotourism.com.

CONFERENCE DINNER A dinner will be held at the venue on the evening of Wednesday 20 August. Please book your place using the registration form. The cost includes a two course meal.

REGISTRATION To register please print the PDF version of the conference registration form available at www.vicnet.net.au/~weedsoc (look under Meetings), complete it and mail it to R.G. and F.J. Richardson, PO Box 42, Meredith, Vic 3333 or fax it to 03 5286 1533. If you cannot open the registration form please contact Rob Richardson on phone 03 5286 1533 or email richardson@weedinfo.com.au

FEES (including lunches, teas and proceedings) ♦ Students (send copy of student card) \$200.00; ♦ Registration for WSV members \$265.00; ♦ Registration for Non-WSV members \$295.00; ♦ Conference Dinner \$35.00; ♦ Payment after 31 July 2003 ADD \$50.00.

Victorian Weedbuster Awards 2003

presented during National Weedbuster Week

The Victorian Weedbuster Awards give us all the opportunity to thank and pay tribute to the hundreds of 'local heroes' that selflessly give their time to enhance our environment by 'Weedbusting Australia'. They will also help raise awareness of weed issues within the community.

Weeds are one of the biggest threats to biological diversity in Australia. Whilst the Departments of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), and Primary Industries (DPI) are committed to minimizing the impact of pest plants on the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of Victoria, the success of weed management relies on a co-ordinated effort between government agencies and dedicated volunteers. There are hundreds of volunteers in Victoria that generously donate their time to help address land management issues, both individuals and groups. These groups range from 'Friends', Landcare, Bushcare and Coastcare groups to Land for Wildlife, committees of management, schools, auxiliaries and scouts. The activities they undertake are just as varied; ranging from weeding activities to field days, information sessions to educational programs, and strategic planning exercises.

Everyone who volunteers their time to 'weedbusting' in Victoria is eligible for an award. Be aware that our 'local heroes' may be a shy bunch, volunteers are often not inclined to nominate themselves. All Victorians are urged to nominate 'weedbusters' that they know and value, and want to see recognized. This is our chance to give something back!

Judging

A judging panel will include representatives from the community, government and other stakeholder groups. What to include:

1. The completed nomination form. (Contact the Weedbuster Co-ordinator for a form.)
2. Supporting material is recommended.
3. A good quality photograph of the area where the weed initiative is



implemented, and/or nominees at work if possible.

4. Please type or neatly print all entries.

Conditions of entry

All entries must be submitted to the Victorian Weedbuster Co-ordinator by the close of business Friday, 5 September, 2003 on an official Victorian Weedbuster Award nomination form.

Submission guidelines

The call for nominations for the 2003 Victorian Weedbuster Awards is currently open.

The award categories and submission guidelines are outlined here. An award ceremony will be held during Weedbuster Week 2003, attended by finalists, government and community representatives.

Entry is open to all Victorians who volunteer their time toward weed management issues. Volunteers do not have to be part of a community group, as the work being recognized may be that of a dedicated individual. Volunteers may receive financial support from grants to cover operational costs, but the time spent implementing initiatives must be donated. The awards recognize weed management initiatives across all land types: private, public, rural, urban and coastal. There is no age restriction on nominees.

Categories

Excellence: The overall excellence award will be made by the judges to the most outstanding nominee from the three other categories.

Education: The award will be made to an education group (primary, secondary school or tertiary institution), or other community group (such as scouts and rovers). The award will recognize the group's contribution to raising the awareness of weed issues amongst students and / or the community, and for active participation in weed management initiatives.

Private land: The award will be made to individual land managers, volunteers or community groups who have displayed commitment to weed management initiatives on private land through sound land and integrated weed management techniques.

Public land: The award will be made to individuals, volunteers or community groups for commitment and dedication in implementing weed management initiatives on public land, including land inside our parks and reserves system.

Why not hold a weed related activity during Weedbuster Week? For more information, or to register your group and receive an event organizer's pack, contact the Victorian Weedbuster Co-ordinator.

Victorian Weedbuster Co-ordinator
Department of Primary Industries
PO Box 48
Frankston, Victoria 3199
Phone: (03) 9785 0111
Fax: (03) 9785 2007
E-mail: sarah.keel@dpi.vic.gov.au



MEMBERSHIP RATES

Weed Society of Victoria Inc.

Students	\$20.00
Ordinary	\$40.00
Corporate	\$100.00

Inquiry Into Invasive Species

The Federal Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee has established an inquiry into invasive species to report by March 2004 and has invited written submissions from interested individuals and organizations to be lodged by Friday, 10 October 2003. The terms of reference are below. This is a great opportunity to highlight the scale and importance of the weeds issue.

The Weed Society of Victoria is planning to make a submission to this inquiry. Members are invited to contact the Society if they wish to participate in the development of the submission or if they wish to contribute information or ideas that can be used in the Society submission.

Inquiry into the regulation, control and management of invasive species and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Invasive Species) Bill 2002

The Senate has referred the above matters to the Committee for inquiry and report by the last sitting day in March 2004.

The terms of reference are:

- 1) The regulation, control and management of invasive species, being non-native flora and fauna that may threaten biodiversity, with particular reference to:
 - a) the nature and extent of the threat that invasive species pose to the Australian environment and economy;
 - b) the estimated cost of different responses to the environmental issues associated with invasive species, including early eradication, containment, damage mitigation and inaction, with particular focus on:
 - i) the following pests:
 - A European fox (*Vulpes vulpes*),
 - A yellow crazy ant (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*),
 - B fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*),
 - C cane toad (*Bufo marinus*), and
 - D feral cats and pigs, and
 - ii) the following weeds:
 - A *Mimosa pigra*,
 - B serrated tussock (*Nasella trichotoma*),
 - C willows (*Salix* spp.),
 - D lantana (*Lantana camara*),
 - E blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), and
 - F *Parkinsonia aculeata*.

- c) the adequacy and effectiveness of the current Commonwealth, state and territory statutory and administrative arrangements for the regulation and control of invasive species;
- d) the effectiveness of Commonwealth-funded measures to control invasive species; and
- e) whether the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Invasive Species) Bill 2002 could assist in improving the current statutory and administrative arrangements for the regulation, control and management of invasive species.

2) That the order of the Senate adopting Report No. 4 of 2003 of the Selection of Bills Committee be varied to provide that the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Invasive Species) Bill 2002 be referred to the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee instead of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee.

The terms of the bill and related explanatory material are available via the link below and notes on preparing submissions are available on the Committee's web site at www.aph.gov.au/senate_environment or by contacting the Committee secretariat as follows: phone: 02 6277 3526, fax: 02 6277 5818 or email: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au.

More information at: http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/ecita_ctte/invasive_species/index.htm.

Bulb Fundraisers a Threat: Researcher

Schools and sporting clubs are risking the spread of a toxic bulb which killed sheep at Tambellup, WA, by selling packs of the bulbs as a fundraiser. West Australian Agriculture Department weed researcher Sandy Lloyd said some spring flowering bulbs could poison stock and harbour cereal crop diseases. Chinchinchee, promoted as drought tolerant and having a long vase life, had killed a number of sheep on a farm at Tambellup in the Great Southern. The Department was investigating suspected links between an upsurge in barley leaf rust in WA and the spread of chinchinchee and star of Bethlehem.

'A lot of country schools and sporting clubs are having bulb drives instead of lamington drives,' Ms Lloyd said. 'It's all right in the city or the centre of town, but on farms or the edge of town it is not the sort of thing you should be putting in.'

She said chinchinchee was from South Africa which had a Mediterranean climate like the South West with dry summers and the plants were well adapted to go wild. All bulbs of the genus *Ornithogalum* were toxic, including chinchinchee, star of Bethlehem, pheasant's eye and pregnant onion. No action had been taken to ban them as they already had become common in gardens and it was too late.

It was therefore important that care was taken to avoid planting them in areas where they could spread to farms. Most invasive weeds in Australia had been introduced as garden plants, including lantana and bridal creeper, which had gone wild and caused serious loss of biodiversity by strangling other plant species. 'Plants being advertised as 'naturalizing freely' or 'looks after itself' have significant weed potential,' Ms Lloyd said.

Student Weed Prize

Dear Weed Society of Victoria,
I am writing to you to express my gratitude in receiving the Weed Society of Victoria prize that was awarded to me at the completion of my Advanced Diploma of Horticulture. Thank you very much, as it provides great incentive and encouragement. I have articulated into the degree course of horticulture and am enjoying the prospect of gaining further knowledge in an area that I am very passionate about.

Raymond Dempsey

THE POETRY OF WEEDS

Baron von Mueller's passion,
While 'round the countryside dashin',
Was to spread blackberry seed
To give explorers a feed.
Such activities are quite out of fashion.

Neil Tucker, enviroweeds

World Environment Day Special: weeds and water – the chemical reaction

Chemical control of weeds is common and often necessary, but what happens when chemicals are used in and around our highly sensitive waterways? Costing Australia several billion dollars every year, there's no doubt that weeds in and along our waterways are a big issue. Willows, hymenachne, and alligator weed, to name just a few, push out native plants and animals, restrict our use of these areas for boating, fishing and other recreation, and starve our waterways of vital oxygen, resulting in poorer water quality and in some cases the death of wildlife.

Dr Rachel McFadyen, CEO of the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management (Weeds CRC), says that while chemicals are an often necessary part of weed management, no current national guidelines exist for their use in these highly sensitive areas. To respond to this worrying lack of coordination, the Weeds CRC has set up a project to pool the current knowledge of chemicals used to control weeds (called herbicides) in and around our rivers, wetlands, floodplains and lakes, and aims to produce a best practice manual.

Dr Nigel Ainsworth, leader of the project, points out that different States do things in different ways in terms of herbicide legislation and environmental protection policies. 'This does present something of an obstacle to a consistent national approach to herbicide use', said Dr Ainsworth.

The planned manual will take into consideration the differing legislation and policy in each State, and offer common principles on how to use chemicals safely, effectively and efficiently in and near water bodies. The CRC says the amount of chemical used in or immediately around watercourses may be small compared to the amounts used in the wider water catchment, even though they have the potential to cause very immediate pollution.

'However, it may be that transport of chemicals used well away from watercourses is a much bigger risk to water quality than those used close to waterways', Dr Ainsworth said. 'Clearly

the public regard contamination of drinking and irrigation water with herbicides as unacceptable'

Concern about aquatic contamination by the chemical atrazine, for example, resulted in the National Registration Authority prohibiting its use within twenty metres of a stream or sixty metres of a lake or dam from 1995. Any damage to the aquatic environment by chemicals is also of major public concern, said Dr Ainsworth. However, herbicides used to control plants seldom, if ever, affect fish. 'Dead fish are obvious, but the effects on other aquatic life are much less easily identified. It may be on reproduction rather than on immediate survival.' Effects of chemicals also need to be distinguished from normal seasonal changes and from fluctuations due to droughts and floods.

The other side of this story is the damage being done by the silent stalkers of Australia's landscape – invasive pest plants. Willows, for example, alter river flows, cause erosion and can damage roads and bridges when willow debris obstructs rivers during flooding. Another example is hymenachne, a semi-aquatic grass introduced from South America, which now infest areas of the NT and Queensland's 'wet tropics'. It invades low-lying sugar cane crops, blocks drainage ditches, and contaminates irrigation storage facilities. It also invades natural wetlands, some of which act as nursery areas for commercially valuable fish such as barramundi.

Chemicals are a necessary part of weed control activities along many waterways. The CRC's new guidelines, due for release in 2004, will help reduce any future damage caused by chemicals and the weeds they control. A few of Australia's worst waterway offenders include hymenachne, pond apple, mimosa, ludwigia, Senegal tea, water hyacinth, water lettuce, cabomba, salvinia, blackberry, willows and alligator weed.

Further information: Dr Nigel Ainsworth Tel: (03) 9785 0184. Dr Rachel McFadyen Chief Executive Officer Tel: (0409) 263 817.

High Tech Weeder Shows Promise

A prototype video-guided, GPS-enhanced, herbicide-applying machine is under study in California as a way to increase the efficiency of chemical application and reduce the need for hand weeding in crops such as processing tomatoes, lettuce, and cotton that currently require intensive hand weeding or hand hoeing.

While numerous improved spraying devices have been developed in the past by various entities, the device under test at the University of California at Davis is believed

to be the first to utilize video technology, mathematical computations, and micro-spray needles combined and mounted on a field-tested robotic cultivator.

Increasing pressure from farm worker advocates to limit hand weeding and short-handle hoeing as being damaging to workers' backs is forcing US growers to seek alternatives. But herbicide application, particularly to food crops, needs to be extremely precise to avoid problems.

Enter the prototype device conceived

and constructed to apply only the precisely required amount of herbicide and to do so with pinpoint accuracy and without overspray or waste.

The goals are to achieve effective weed management and eliminate major physical harm to farm workers, as well as decrease both herbicide usage and potential for any chemical residues on the crop.

For further information contact Lanini@vegmail.ucdavis.edu.

WSV HOME PAGE: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~weedsoc/>

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