

**The U.S. Witchweed Eradication Effort Turns 50:  
A Retrospective and Look-Ahead on Parasitic Weed Management**

**Draft Agenda:**

**Parasitic Weeds - a World Challenge** – Danny Joel (Newe Ya’ar Research Center, Israel) 9:00 - 9:30  
**Overview of Methods Development Support for the USDA-Carolinas Witchweed Eradication Program - 1959-1995** - Randy Westbrooks, (USGS) Marion Langston (USDA APHIS Ret.) & Bob Eplee (WSSA Fellow—USDA APHIS Ret.) 9:30-10:00

**Current eradication program for the witchweed infestation in the US** - Rick Iverson (NC Dept Ag & Consumer Serv. 10:00 -10:30

**Current parasitic weed control methods development in the US** - Craig Ramsey (APHIS Center for Plant Health Science & Technology) 10:30 – 11:00

***Orobanche minor* and the 3 R's: Research, Regulation and Reality** – Carol Mallory-Smith (Oregon State University) 11:00 - 11:30

Discussion 11:30-11:45

Lunch 11:45-1:00

**Technologies for Precision control of *Orobanche*** – Hanan Eizenberg (Newe Ya’ar Research Center, Israel) 1:00 - 1:30

**The Parasitic Plant Genome Project: New tools for understanding the biology of *Orobanche* and *Striga*** – Jim Westwood (Virginia Tech) 1:30 - 2:00

**Race-Specific Host Resistance to *Striga* - New Insights into an Old Foe** – Mike Timko (University of Virginia) 2:00-2:30

**Biotechnological approaches to parasitic weed control** – Radi Aly (Newe Ya’ar Research Center, Israel) 2:30-3:00

**Control of *Striga* using IR-maize: a success story – how long will it last?** – Joel Ransom (NDSU), Fred Kanampiu (CIMMYT) & Jonny Gressel (Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel) 3:00-3:30

**Current approaches to control of *Cuscuta*** – Tom Lanini (University of California, Davis) 3:30-4:00  
Discussion 4:00-4:15

**Further information:**

South Carolina at the end of 2009 released the last acres from this Quarantine, while North Carolina has just over 2000 acres still in the active program. Despite the success of the witchweed program, eradication is not assured and other parasitic weed species continue to invade the US. Broomrape infestations are targeted for eradication in several states, including one near Portland Oregon, the site of the WSSA conference.

Another milestone event is the 2010 release of extensive gene sequences from witchweed and broomrape species. These are the first large-scale gene databases for parasitic weeds, offering the promise of increased understanding of parasitism and new possibilities for control.

For all of these reasons, 2011 is an excellent time to look back on the accomplishments of the witchweed program, to assess the current threat, and look forward to new strategies for the control of parasitic weeds.