

THE WEED SOCIETY/ OF NEW SOUTH WALES - NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX K287, HAYMARKET, N.S.W.  
2000

PRESIDENT: Dr. L.W. Smith

HON. SECRETARY: Mr. W.J. Burke

NEWSLETTER NO. 3/82

PRICE - 10 CENTS

JUNE, 1982

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR WEED CONTROL  
IN THE REST OF THE DECADE?

That question could be answered in a variety of ways. The International Plant Protection Centre's senior weed scientist, L.C. Burrill, has responded by citing a number of major trends. These, Burrill pointed out, relate directly and indirectly to the role of weeds, as well as weed control, in the foreseeable future.

- 1. Population expansion and income growth will continue to exert pressure on world food production.
- 2. Soil loss and soil quality deterioration will continue to be major society concerns, emphasizing a need for careful assessment of vegetation management methods.
- 3. Need for more efficient, cost-effective weed control will increase as efforts accelerate to increase food production through use of fertilizer, new crop varieties, irrigation, closer row or plant spacing, multiple cropping, etc.
- 4. The seasonal availability of farm labour in many regions will shrink while cost expands, despite increasing unemployment in urban areas.
- 5. Rising fuel and equipment costs will make plowing, cultivating, and other mechanized tillage operations increasingly less attractive compared to minimum tillage techniques.
- 6. Herbicides' slower cost increase, compared to other agricultural inputs, will spur wider usage and generate a parallel need for an increased volume of trained personnel and technical information dissemination to assure effective, safe application practices.

- 7. An enlarging knowledge of weed biology will lead to more effective and economical control measures.
- 8. Similarly, awareness that cropping systems can be altered and specifically designed to reduce weeds' impact will find greater utilization.

"These trends, and others" Burrill noted, "suggest that from the standpoint of society as well as individual farmers, more attention must be directed toward reducing the negative impact of weeds while retaining their useful features" ●

(Extracted from INFOLETTER, International Plant Protection Center, Oregon State University, Oregon, U.S.A.).

\*\*\*\*\*

#### BLACKBERRY FIELD DAY - Castle Hill

Sixty people attended the Blackberry Field Day arranged by John Toth, at Castle Hill on May 28th, 1982. This was the second inspection of John's plots which show results with triclopyr, glyphosate, amitrole and fosamine. Of particular interest was the special handgun designed by Alan Murphy, New South Wales Department of Agriculture, Dubbo, and which showed promising results with low volume application of glyphosate and fosamine.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### THE NATIONAL TRUST AND WEED CONTROL

The National Trust have an active interest in weed control and are promoting and training people in the Bush Regeneration or Bradley Method of weed control. Remember we saw them in action at the Annual General Meeting Tour earlier this year; Evelyn Hickey and Joan Larking.

The National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) is a community organisation which seeks to conserve Australia's heritage of historic buildings and natural beauty.

They are not, as many people suppose, a government agency. The Trust was established in 1945 by a small group of citizens wanting to express their concern at the destruction of distinctive parts of our Australian environment: landscapes, townscapes and individual buildings.

By joining the Trust (annual subscriptions: Ordinary Membership \$16; Household Membership \$24; Student, Pensioner Memberships \$8) you will make a valuable contribution to their working funds and become eligible for a range of member benefits.

For further information contact: The Director, The National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.),  
Observatory Hill, Sydney N.S.W. 2000  
Telephone 27-5374

\*\*\*\*\*

PUBLICATIONS

1. The Society has received the following publications from CANADA by courtesy of Dr. John Maybank, who visited Australia for the 6th. Australian Weeds Conference, 1981.

- Aerial Application of Pesticides - Safety Manual.
- 1981 Guide to Farm Practice in Saskatchewan.
- Agricultural Statistics - Saskatchewan.
- Field Measurement of Droplet Drift from Ground Sprayers.

Anyone wishing to borrow these publications contact Leon Smith (02) 217-5077 or write to the Secretary.

2. "Water Plants of New South Wales" by G. Sainty and S. Jacobs is now available from the Public Relations Section, Water Resources Commission, P.O. Box 952, North Sydney for \$30.00 plus \$1.75 postage. All orders must be accompanied by the remittance.

This exceptionally well illustrated book is excellent value at this price. It also contains chapters on algae, and water pollution. A must for every weed scientist's book shelf.

3. "Biological Control of Weeds" - edited by E.S. Del Fosse, C.S.I.R.O., Canberra, is a complete record of the 68 scientific papers presented at the 5th International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds held in Brisbane, 1980.

Cost \$25.00 - C.S.I.R.O. Editorial and Publications Service, 9 Queens Road, Melbourne, Vic. 3004.

4. "The Ecology of Pests" edited by R.L. Kitching and R.E. Jones collects widely scattered information on eleven diverse organisms regarded as major pests in Australia. Includes chapters on skeleton weed, crown of thorns starfish, cabbage butterfly etc. Cost \$8.50 C.S.I.R.O. Editorial and Publications Service.

5. Copies of the "Proceedings of the 6th Australian Weeds Conference" are now available from:-

The Secretariat,  
6th Australian Weeds Conference,  
P.O. Box 111,  
Broadbeach, Qld. 4217.

or

The Secretary,  
Weed Society of Queensland,  
P.O. Box 36,  
Sherwood Qld. 4075

At a cost of A\$25 (post paid) in Australia, New Zealand and

Papua New Guinea and A\$30 in other overseas countries.

6. The Noxious Plants Advisory Committee in conjunction with the New South Wales Department of Agriculture are now publishing a newsletter called "Weeder's Digest". This Newsletter is intended to convey information and recent developments in noxious plant control to Councils, Weeds Officers and any other persons interested in noxious plant control. Contact Dr. Leon Smith, N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, for further information.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### NEWS OF OTHER SOCIETIES

Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society held its eighth conference in Bangalore, India from November 22 - 29, 1981. Approximately 280 people from 15 countries attended to hear and discuss 120 papers on various weed control subjects. The first volume of the proceedings can be requested from the Organising Committee, Eighth Conference of Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society, 159, I Cross, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore 560 052, India. The ninth conference will be held in the Philippines in 1983.

The Philippine Weed Science Society held its annual general meeting in the course of the 12th Annual Conference of the Pest Control Council of the Philippines in May, 1981.

The European Weed Research Society has announced changes in the Editorial Board of "Weed Research" following illness and other difficulties which resulted in delayed publication. The new Board will welcome contributions in English, French or German and can offer publication times comparing favourably with other scientific journals. Contributions should be sent to the Secretary, Editorial Board EWRS, ARC Weed Research Organization, Yarnton, Oxford OX 5 1 PF, U.K.

Mexican Weed Science Society Meeting. Approximately 250 persons attended the 2nd. annual meeting of the Mexican Weed Science Society, held at the University of Chapingo from November 4 - 7. Fifty-four papers were presented, covering the areas of weed control, physiology, taxonomy, application equipment, and education. The Congress was inaugurated by Dr. E. Moncadi, Director of the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIA), who stressed the need for an integrated approach to the problem of weed control, and for developing weed control systems for the principal crops in Mexico.

Weed Ecology and Management Booklet Published. Dr. Miguel Angel Altieri at the University of California-Berkeley has published an 18-page booklet on the "Ecology and Management of Weed Populations". It is an annotated bibliography covering a wealth of topics and presents many tables and figures to illustrate the principle points. Sixty-eight references are cited, most of which were published in the 1970's so the information represents the current

status of weed management. It is available for \$2.50 (U.S.) from: Eugene Memmier, 3287 Dunsmere Road, Glendale California 91206, U.S.A.

21st Anniversary of the Weed Research Organization, Oxford, U.K.

WRO was established in 1960 and the 1981 "Weed Workshop" was an opportunity for some formal celebration of the achievements of the institute which has grown from an original 30 to some 170 staff, making it perhaps the largest unit of its kind in the world. Current projects were on display and several invited speakers noted the contributions the organization has made to British agriculture. Professor Bunting, however, also noted with regret the recent decision of the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) to cease funding WRO's Tropical Weeds Liaison Unit. This unit has become widely known as a source of advice and information on weeds and weed control in developing countries. Up to the present no alternative funding has been found and it is feared the service will no longer be available after March, 1982.

National Weed Science Research Institute (NWSRI), Thailand

With the help of the Japan International Co-operation Agency a completely new weed science institute has been established near Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Kenji Noda is the leader of the Japanese team providing guidance in the build-up of the institute and co-ordinating the training programme which will see numbers of Thai personnel trained in Japan.

\*\*\*\*\*

2,4,-D - VITAL TO THE CANADIAN WHEAT CROP

The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture has just released figures on the Economic Impact of 2,4-D on the Province's Wheat Crop. A paper by Holm and McKell of the Crop Protection Section, Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, shows that the current usage of 2,4-D results in an additional 30,000,000 bushels per year with a present value of approximately 120,000,000 Canadian dollars. To achieve this increased yield 2,4-D costing approximately \$13,000,000 was used.

The researchers further maintain that the most suitable alternative to 2,4-D would increase farm input cost by approximately \$35,000,000 (Canadian).

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2,4,5-T BAN IN VICTORIA

The following News Release has been received from Victoria:-

The Victorian State Government has placed a temporary ban on aerial spraying of the herbicide 2,4,5-T while new tougher legislation on aerial spraying in general is being prepared.

State Cabinet also approved other measures which will considerably tighten the availability and use of the herbicide which has been suspected of causing foetal defects and other problems.

The Minister of Health, Mr. Roper, said Cabinet had endorsed a report prepared by himself, the Minister for Conservation and Planning, Mr. Walker, the Minister for Forests and Land, Mr. Mackenzie and the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Kent.

"The Government was very concerned about the continued unrestricted use of the herbicide and has acted promptly."

"We are also awaiting further reports from overseas and New South Wales," Mr. Roper said.

The Government had reduced by 1,000 per cent (10 fold) the maximum permissible level of dioxin in the herbicide.

"We have decided to restrict the sale of 2,4,5-T to commercial quantities only to avoid its use by ordinary householders," Mr. Roper said.

Workers exposed to the herbicide would have urine tested regularly and results monitored, Mr. Roper said.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PATERSON'S CURSE

The court case in the South Australian Supreme Court, between C.S.I.R.O. and beekeepers and graziers over the release of biological control agents for Paterson's Curse control has been postponed.

Agreement has been reached that the matter should be determined by an independent tribunal which will report to the Judge in 6 - 8 months time. Meanwhile the injunction against releasing the insects still stands.

A costly court case has been averted but will we be any better off in 6 months time?

\*\*\*\*\*

1982 DUES - I M P O R T A N T

1982 dues (\$12.00) are now due. If you received a green slip with this newsletter you haven't paid your 1982 dues.

PLEASE DEAL WITH THIS MATTER PROMPTLY!

\*\*\*\*\*

RATING SCALE

The following scale is recommended as standard practice for assessing weed control plots in Canada according to the Expert Committee on Weeds, Canada.

<u>Weed Control</u>		<u>Crop Tolerance</u>
9 complete control	} commercially acceptable }	9 complete tolerance
8 excellent control		8 possible effect
7 good control		7 slight effect
-----		
6 fair control		6 definite effect
5 poor control		5 severe effect
4 moderate injury		4 severe effect
3 definite effect		3 severe effect
2 slight effect		2 severe effect
1 possible effect		1 severe effect
0 no effect		0 complete kill

\*\*\*\*\*

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF 2,4,5-T IN VICTORIA.

Standard. The present Australian Standard specifies an upper limit for the dioxin (TCDD) contaminants of 0.1 ppm. It is proposed to reduce this level for Victoria to 0.01 ppm as in the U.K.

Formulation. The registration of highly volatile ester formulations of 2,4,5-T will be withdrawn. This will have the effect of leaving low volatile material available such as the amine form.

Sale. Regulations will be introduced to prohibit the sale of 2,4,5-T in containers less than 1 litre, as soon as possible. The move is designed to restrict the availability of the chemical through supermarkets, hardware stores, nurseries, etc. Agreed that all existing stocks be bought up by the Lands Dept. at

wholesale prices.

Training of Operators. Provision is to be made for the training of all government operators using 2,4,5-T. Private operators and users will be encouraged to attend.

Operator Safety (i) Protective clothing for Operators. All government workers will be required to wear full protective clothing including overalls, boots, rubber gloves, face shields or respirators. (ii) Regular urine sampling and analysis will be made compulsory for government workers before, during and after the spraying season along the lines employed in N.S.W.. Consultation with the N.S.W. Health Commission on this aspect will be undertaken first.

Spray restrictions (i) there is proposed a temporary ban on aerial spraying of 2,4,5-T dependant on the powers available under the Agricultural Chemicals Act and if invoked for such time as more information on this aspect has been examined. (ii) a temporary ban on misting machines will be applied until more information is available. (iii) all other spraying will be prohibited within 50 metres of an inhabited dwelling or public building. (iv) spraying of blackberries will be prohibited during that time when ripe fruit is present.

Notice of intent to spray. Public notice ahead of the event will be required of local government, Forest Commission and Crown Lands before any use in an inhabited area of 2,4,5-T is undertaken.

Withholding period. A suitable withholding period is to be introduced between the time when weeds in pasture are sprayed and when produce from animals (such as milk and meat) is offered for sale.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### SURVEY OF MEMBERS

Several members have not replied to the following request. URGENT ACTION is requested.

As part of a scheme to provide better information to Weed Society members Mr. Nelson Johnston has agreed to edit a list of members and their interest in Weed Science. It is planned to publish this in the form of a small brochure. The following Information (next page) is required:-



SURVEY OF MEMBERS

NAME:

---

ADDRESS:

---

---

---

PHONE NO.

---

A brief description of your basic area of interest in Weeds,  
Weed Control and Weed Science.

---

---

---

---

---

---

Return this form to:

Secretary,  
Weed Society of N.S.W.,  
P.O. Box K 287  
HAYMARKET      N.S.W.      2000

\*\*\*\*\*

C.A.W.S.S. - NOTES

C.A.W.S.S. reports that "Australian Weeds", with Vol. 1 No. 4 now in preparation, has been well received by our Members as well as a wide range of Weed Workers. In fact, "Infoletter" the official organ of the International Plant Protection Centre, Oregon State University comments "an impressive new Journal, carries a full insert, and a great deal of informative text". All members and Weed Workers not already subscribers should endeavour to become subscribers by directly applying to INKATA PRESS PTY. LTD., 4 LONGBOURNE AVENUE, NORTH CLAYTON, VICTORIA, 3168.

The challenge to biocontrol of Paterson's Curse and now blackberry are now in the public arena. As weed scientists and weed workers, we should ensure that facts are properly presented and critically evaluated. C.A.W.S.S. through our Secretary, Jack Burke, would be pleased to have your view on this and similar weed problems of national interest.

C.A.W.S.S. is awaiting response to the points raised by Nelson Johnston in his oration at the Broadbeach Conference and published in our Newsletter. Again Jack Burke will receive your comment. The full text of the oration will appear in "Australian Weeds".

The Weed Science Society of Victoria has involved Dr. Ray Hance, Head of Herbicide Group, Weed Research Organisation in U.K. during the period from 5-27 October. Dr. Hance is a well known Weed Scientist with specialist interest in HERBICIDES IN SOIL. The Victorian Society will be organising a number of Seminars and has asked C.A.W.S.S. to honour his visit by arranging that he deliver the next C.A.W.S.S. Oration. Members will be notified later on the venues of such events.

*in week beginning Oct 10, program*  
\*\*\*\*\*

*Monday 11th October Bush Conference Room.*

---