

SOUTHERN AFRICAN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY

SAWSS



SAVO

SUIDER-AFRIKAANSE VERENIGING VIR ONKRUIDWETENSKAP

Mission

The Society's mission is to further weed science in southern Africa through:

- improving control of the many weeds that drastically reduce our crop production, and the alien invader plants that impact on our natural resources;
- supporting the use of the most efficient and environmentally acceptable control methods to benefit soil, water and atmosphere as well as plant and animal life.

Missie

Die Vereniging se missie is die bevordering van onkruidwetenskap in suider-Afrika deur:

- effektiewe beheer van onkruid wat gewasopbrengste verlaag, en uitheemse indringerplante wat ons natuurlike hulpbronne bedreig;
- die bevordering van doeltreffende, omgewingsvriendelike beheermetodes, met die doel om die omgewing (grond, water, atmosfeer, plant-en dierelewe) te bewaar.



The Society sets out to achieve its objectives by promoting the education of weed researchers and managers, by improving communication in the sub-continent.

Through biennial and joint congresses the Society ensures that those active in the field, are brought together to share their latest research results, observations and control strategies.

Research findings are published in the South African Journal of Plant and Soil, that receives financial and editorial support from the Society.

A newsletter informs members of the latest developments in their field and of members' achievements.

The Society also promotes and rewards achievements with a range of prestigious awards for research and service, for theses, congress presentations, posters and published papers.

The Society is strongly supported by the local agrochemical industry.

The aggressive competition of weeds costs South Africa over a billion Rand each year in crop losses, and causes immeasurable harm to water supplies, indigenous plants and animals.

There are more than 1,000 recognized weed species in southern Africa, of which about 500 compete with crops. Of those that occur in the veld, 198 are declared weeds and invaders, and there are about 600 species of poisonous plants.

Without effective control measures it will be impossible to feed our growing population, alien plants will alter landscapes and habitats, rare indigenous species will be lost, the number of tourists visiting the country may decline and the quality of life in the sub-continent will be sharply reduced.

Ideally, control strategies should include combinations of chemical, biological and mechanical methods, i.e. integrated control, to achieve environmentally safe and cost effective control.

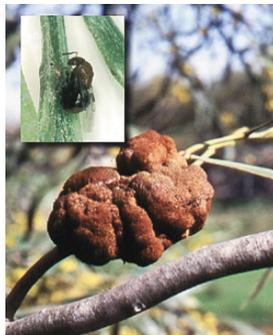
The Southern African Weed Science Society is a professional society, founded in 1978, for scientists and managers in weed science and related disciplines.



Agricultural management and effective conservation are of great importance in the diverse ecosystems of southern Africa where:

- vast areas receive meager and unreliable rainfall;
- human populations are growing rapidly;
- one of the richest floras in the world, and its associated wildlife, is threatened by a host of alien invader plants.

In this environment the Southern African Weed Science Society is playing a vital role.



The Southern African Weed Science Society promotes weed science in the sub-continent by:

- holding regular conferences and workshops;
- supporting the publication of the South African Journal of Plant and Soil;
- distributing a regular newsletter;
- encouraging contact with international weed science organizations and local, allied agricultural, industrial, biological and conservation organisations.

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