

ERWS Working Group Invasive Plants

By Christian Bohren

A working group meeting was held during the 14th EWRS Symposium in Hamar, Norway. Around 40 delegates were present. The coordinator gave a report on what has been done so far:

February 2006: Meeting of establishment in Nyon, Switzerland with 23 delegates. A decision was made to apply for a COST action on invasive plants. Subgroups were created: on woody invasives, agricultural invasives, possibilities for other subgroups.

July 2006: COST response to a preliminary project on invasive plants (no species specified) was negative. Reasons: preparation of a FP7 proposal is not a COST objective; EWRS network already existing; out of COST strategy; Important from the ecological point of view.

July 2006: Working Group meeting in Ponta Delgada, Azores with around 15 delegates. It was decided to continue with a COST proposal.

March 2007: COST response to a preliminary project on one invasive plant (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) was again negative. Reasons: only one species; too simplistic – no description how nationally financed activities will be linked and performed; similar approach as beginning COST – Action ES0603.

July 2007: Working Group meeting in Hamar, Norway. *Ambrosia* is a health problem, mainly in Eastern European countries. We discussed the need of an international coordinated *Ambrosia* project and decided to continue on *Ambrosia*. We also discussed to create projects dealing mainly with invasive plant species which are on various lists.

September 2007: The WG has a new interactive website. See EWRS website and search for “Working Groups” and “Invasive Plants”.

- Information on projects will be sorted according to species.
- You will be able to insert reports of your projects on invasive species and you will have the possibility to formulate your ideas on future projects of the WG.
- An extended link list will help you contact colleagues easily.

Future: We decided to start our activities with a project on common ragweed (*A. artemisiifolia*). **We urgently need a proper collection of national *Ambrosia* projects for creating a networking WG project.** Please visit the new site and put your existing projects and ideas in. Contact your WG coordinator.

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