SWSS WEED CONTEST

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RULES, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDELINES

Purpose:

The purpose of the Southern Weed Contest is to provide an educational experience from which undergraduate and graduate students in Southern Universities can broaden their applied skills in Weed Science. The contest provides an opportunity for Weed Science students be exposed to weed scientists from other universities and industry, apply what they have learned using a contest to measure their capabilities, as well as to socialize. It is hopeful that the contest will increase the visibility of Weed Science and intensify the interest level of those participating in the discipline of Weed Science.

Eligibility:

Any undergraduate or graduate student currently enrolled and pursuing a B.S., M.S., or Ph.D. degree is eligible to participate. Each graduate team will consist of three or four members, composed of (a) graduate, (b) undergraduate, or (c) a combination of graduate and undergraduate students. If undergraduates are part of a graduate team, those students are subject to the same guidelines as the graduate students. If a university does not have sufficient students for a team, up to two students may enter as individuals. Universities are allowed to enter multiple teams. All students will compete using the same contest material. A team may also bring three alternates. Alternate scores will only count toward individual awards. Team scores will be determined from averaging the individual scores from each team member; unless a three-person team is entered. Then the three highest individuals will be averaged. A maximum of two coaches per team can attend the contest. Students will be allowed to participate in the contest five times as a team member or alternate; however, the student can only participate as a team member three times. Undergraduate participation will not count against the five-time rule. All teams must enter the contest by May 1, 2014. Names of team members and alternates must be provided by July 1, 2014. Primary contact: Bruce Kirksey bkirksey@agricenter.org

Awards:

TEAM-The highest average team score from all events will determine the overall contest winner. A traveling **"Broken Hoe"** trophy will be presented to the overall

winner and will rotate yearly. The first place team will receive a check for \$500 and each member and coach will receive an engraved plaque. The second and third place teams will receive checks of \$300 and \$200, respectively. Each will also receive an engraved plaque as described above.

INDIVIDUAL-The highest combined score from all events, except team sprayer calibration, will determine the overall-winning individual. The top 10 individuals will be recognized and awarded a plaque. The winning individual will receive a check for \$400. Individuals finishing second, third, fourth, and fifth will receive checks from \$250, \$100, \$75, and \$50, respectively. The high individual in Weed Identification, Crop Response to Herbicides, Sprayer Calibration Problem Set, and Crop/Weed Situation and Recommendations will be recognized and awarded a plaque. If at least four undergraduate students participate in the contest, the top three individual scores will be recognized with first, second, and third place plaques and checks for \$200, \$100, and \$50, respectively.

Events:

The contest will consist of four major events plus a mystery event. Inclement weather may delay the contest; however, it will continue as soon as conditions permit.

While contestants are briefed on contest details during breakfast, coaches will be taken to the contest site to review all aspects of the contest. Coaches will review the six phases of the contest: weed identification, herbicide identification, sprayer calibration, math problem set, field problem solving, and mystery event. The coaches will then be taken to a neutral site for breakfast. No contact, electronic or otherwise, with contestants will be allowed until all events have been completed. A committee meeting will also be conducted, if needed, either the day before the contest or on the day of the contest.

1. Weed Identification (100 points)

From the contest weed identification list of 100 weeds and weed seeds/tubers, the host will pick a total of 50 weeds and/or weed seeds to be identified. Plants will be grown in a field weed nursery or pots and may be in any stage of growth or development within reason. A complete weed identification list is provided with the correct spelling of each species (Table 1). Students will be responsible for the correct WSSA common and scientific name and spelling (Weed Science Composite List of Weeds - 2011). **Undergraduate students will only use the common names.** The fall preceding the contest the host should evaluate its weed seed supply and obtain additional seeds/tubers if needed so that an excellent representation of the weed species can be selected for identification. **It is important to utilize as many plant**

species as possible. The plants will be grown in sufficient numbers so that adequate samples are available so that 30 to 70 contestants can have specimens for identification. The contestants will be allowed ample time to identify each specimen. The percentage of samples will range from 50 to 80% weeds and from 50 to 20% seeds. Uncontaminated weed seed and plant samples are essential for effective identification. So make sure samples are pure. The contestant's score will be figured as follows: 2 points for each correctly identified species (1 point for common name and 1 point for scientific name with 0.5 points for Genus and 0.5 points for species) x 50 = 100 points. If names are not spelled correctly or capitalized correctly, they are wrong. Likewise, answers must be in the correct column. Teams will not be supplied weed seed for study, but rather rely on their own training resources. However, teams are encouraged to expand/improve their training resources through contacts with other weed scientists. This approach may better reflect individual and team preparation for the contest.

2. Calibration (100 points)

This event consists of two sections: an individual written test worth 50 points and a team sprayer calibration event worth 50 points.

The individual written test will cover problems and factual information about sprayer and seed treatment calibration of all types; the written portion will be scored as an individual and team event (50 points per person). The host should take particular care to insure all banded application and skip-row calibration problems are stated clearly. Individual team members and alternates will be given a maximum of 1 hour to complete the written exam. **The host will not provide calculators and students will be required to bring their own. Any make or model is acceptable, but programmable calculators are not allowed.** The three or four individual team member scores will be added and divided by the number of individuals on the team to give the number of points out of 50 for the team score.

In the team section, the host will provide a hands-on calibration activity that focuses on team, rather than individual performance. Students should have practical calibration knowledge for air blast sprayers, tractor sprayers, backpack sprayers, granular applicators, greenhouse spray chambers, etc. **Differences in time for the competition will count no more than 40% of the overall score. Accuracy of calibration is critical.**

To determine final team score for the calibration event, the number of points scored out of 50 obtained in the team event will be added to the average score of the three or four high team members from the individual calibration problems for a maximum possible of 100 points.

Reference material for the individual problems will be Chapter 23 of Applied Weed

Science by Ross and Lembi (2009); Circular 1192 - Equipment and Calibration; Low-Pressure Sprayers, and Circular 1240 - Equipment and Calibration: Granular Applicators, both by Bode and Pearson (University of Illinois); Roth, L.O. and H.L. Fields, eds. 1991. Introduction to Agricultural Engineering: A Problem Solving Approach, Second Edition, New York: Chapman and Hall; Aerial Application Handbook for Applicators by Dennis K. Kuhlman, Kansas State University; Research Methods in Weed Science, 3rd ed. SWSS 1986; Physiology of Herbicide Action. M.D. Devine, S. O. Duke, and C. Fedtke, 1993; Herbicide Handbook. WSSA 9th ed. 2007, and various unit conversions.

3. Crop Response to Herbicides (100 points)

This is an area of extreme difficulty for the students. Thus, the host must have available a sprinkler irrigation system so that residual herbicides may be activated and weeds and crops maintained in an active growth stage for postemergence treatments. A list of possible crops and herbicides with rate and method of application are provided in Table 2. The test must contain at least 6 crops and 6 weeds and will be planted and treated with a wide range of preemergence and postemergence herbicides from the list. Each herbicide plot will contain a 1X rate of the unknown herbicide. It is suggested that the test be planted 4 to 5 weeks prior to the contest, with postemergence herbicides being applied 10 to 14 days prior to the contest. Each contestant will be required to identify the unknown herbicides by WSSA-approved chemical family and common name by observation of crop and weed responses. Both names will be given equal credit; in other words missing family or common name will be half right. Put the letter for the correct family listed above, and follow it with the correctly spelled common name. For the aryloxyphenoxy or cyclohexane family, the host may choose the specific product. There should be from 10 to 15 plots. Herbicide plots may be duplicated and check plots can be utilized. It would be of great benefit to the students if they could be led back through the plots following the event. Students will not be allowed to pull any portion of the plants in the plots. If plants are pulled, the student will lose the points for that plot.

4. Crop/weed Situation and Recommendations (100 points)

Contestants will be required within 15 minutes to determine and evaluate a crop/weed situation and recommend the most effective legal remedy to the problem. **Each contestant will have two field problems to solve.** Recommendations must comply with the label of each herbicide recommended. Students should give consideration to such factors as stage of growth, crop tolerance, climatological factors, agricultural spraying procedures, weed control, economics, and impact upon the environment. The host will determine the best answer considering all alternatives for a situation, although several possible answers may be correct. The latest Federal

(Section 3) or State (Section 24C) labels of the product constitutes legal control. The event will be conducted as a "role-play" situation and the potential problem will be in one of the crops on the problem-solving sheet. Also, the potential herbicide and weed problem will involve only the listed herbicides and weeds on the predetermined problem-solving sheet. The contestant will be asked to assume the role of a chemical company representative, state extension specialist, or independent crop consultant when dealing with the farmer and scored as follows:

5 points - proper approach to farmer 20 points - understanding and solving problem 12.5 points - recommendations for this year's crop 12.5 points - recommendations for next year's crop

Each team will be divided at random into two groups in order to handle one of two different problem situations. Following completion of the first problem, the groups will switch problems and repeat the procedure. Each participant will evaluate the same two problems. Alternates and other individuals will be equally divided between the two groups. The assigned judge and farmer will independently score each participant from a predetermined scoring sheet with assigned points for each statement, compare scores, and adjust if necessary. Prior to the contest, judges and farmers will be tested to insure that the scorers will give equivalent scores within each individual field problem. Each field problem will be worth 50 points and to obtain the participants score, the two scores will be added for a maximum of 100 points.

5. Mystery Event (15 to 20 points)

This team or individual event will be an agronomic related problem and the contestants will not be advised of the area to study prior to the contest. The mystery event will count toward the team score and individual scores.

Scoring

Overall team ranking of each respective school should be provided to the team coach the night of the banquet following the event. Individual score sheets including their respective ranking against all other competitors should be distributed back to the contestants or their coach at the end of the banquet. An answer key should also be distributed to the team coach.

Scores should be tabulated using a scoring format as listed in the examples below. Each phase of the contest will be scored equally (100 pts. each) except for the mystery event (15 or 20 pts) for a total of 415 or 420 points per team. Examples are:

A. All teams with four individuals.

						Events					
			Fi	eld Pro	blem	Calib	ration				
Super University	ID	Crop/Weed Response	1	2	Avg.	Team	Ind.	Myst.	Score	Ind.	Team Placing
John Doe	86	60	25	19	44		45	5	240	9	
Bill Smith	80	65	47	31	78		35	5	263	5	
Jane Doe	95	75	35	25	60		45	0	275	1	
Roy James	63	50	43	43	86		45	3	247	7	
Total	324.0	250.0			268		170	13			
Team Avg.	81.0	62.5			67	40	42.5	3.25			
Team											3
Total	296.25										
Alternates											
Pat Ray	80	60	31	201	51		45	5	241	8	
Jim Jones	65	45	27	18	45		50	0	205	20	

B. Mixed three and four individual teams (if teams with three individuals attend).

						Events					
			Fie	eld Pro	blem	Calib	ration				
Super University	ID	Crop/Weed Response	1	2	Avg.	Team	Ind.	Myst.	Score	Ind.	Team Placing
John Doe									240	9	
Bill Smith	80	65	47	31	78		35	5	263	5	
Jane Doe	95	75	35	25	60		45	0	275	1	
Roy James	63	50	43	43	86		45	3	247	7	
Total	238.0	190.0			224		125	8			
Team Avg.	79.33	63.33			74.6	40	41.67	2.67			
Team											3
Total	301.67										
Alternates	_										
Pat Ray	80	60	31	20	51		45	5	241	8	
Jim Jones	65	45	27	18	45		50	0	205	20	

Alternates and low individuals of four member teams will not be scored as part of a team, but can win individual prizes.

Contest Committee:

All coaches and individuals within academia, research, and industry, as well as potential contest hosts are invited to serve on the committee. On the morning of the contest, prior to contestants entering the events, individuals from the host location and all committee members will review each event and last minute corrections will be made and be the authority for all questions relating to the contest. If questions arise that cannot be resolved through interpretation of the standing rules or cannot be resolved through communication with the committee chairman or members of the committee, the contest host has the authority to make the final decision in the best interest of the contest.

Expenses:

Each university will provide its own transportation to and from the contest and cover all expenses incurred during travel. The host will provide meals the evening before and the day of the contest. The weed contest committee will provide the prize money and the plaques.

Location:

The Southern Weed Contest will be held at any facility within the Southern Weed Science Region with the capability of providing all the designated events.

Dishonesty:

All coaches are charged with ensuring that teams abide by rules of the contest, and that no team gains an unfair advantage. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating. Cheating is defined as a dishonest violation of rules as determined by the coaches attending the contest. A committee made up of all coaches attending the contest will deal with acts related to cheating. A team and/or individual that do not abide by the rules of the contest will be disqualified and will automatically receive last place at the contest. Teams are not allowed to visit contest site 30 days prior to contest without permission of host. All contestants' cell phones, iPad's, or computers will be collected by team coaches and bagged by individual name when arriving at the contest site on the morning of the event.

Table 1. 2014 SWSS WEED CONTEST WEED LIST

Common name	Genus	Species
velvetleaf	Abutilon	theophrasti
hophornbeam copperleaf	Acalypha	ostryifolia
northern jointvetch	Aeschynomene	virginica
alligatorweed	Alternanthera	philoxeroides
Palmer amaranth	Amaranthus	palmeri
redroot pigweed	Amaranthus	retroflexus
spiny amaranth	Amaranthus	spinosus
tall waterhemp	Amaranthus	tuberculatus
common ragweed	Ambrosia	artemisiifolia
giant ragweed	Ambrosia	trifida
purple ammannia	Ammannia	robusta
broomsedge	Andropogon	virginicus
trumpetcreeper	Campsis	radicans
musk thistle	Carduus	nutans
smellmelon	Cucumis	melo
southern sandbur	Cenchrus	echinatus
prostrate spurge	Chamaesyce	humistrata
spotted spurge	Chamaesyce	maculata
common lambsquarters	Chenopodium	album
bull thistle	Cirsium	vulgare
spreading dayflower	Commelina	diffusa
field bindweed	Convolvulus	arvensis
horseweed	Conyza	canadensis
showy crotalaria	Crotalaria	spectabilis
woolly croton	Croton	capitatus
tropic croton	Croton	glandulosus var. septentrionalis
honeyvine swallowwort	Cynanchum	laeve
bermudagrass	Cynodon	dactylon
yellow nutsedge	Cyperus	esculentus
purple nutsedge	Cyperus	rotundus
rice flatsedge	Cyperus	iria
crowfootgrass	Dactyloctenium	aegyptium
jimsonweed	Datura	stramonium

Florida beggarweed	Desmodium	tortuosum
smooth crabgrass	Digitaria	ischaemum
large crabgrass	Digitaria	sanguinalis
Virginia buttonweed	Diodia	virginiana
junglerice	Echinochloa	colona
barnyardgrass	Echinochloa	crus-galli
eclipta	Eclipta	prostrata
goosegrass	Eleusine	indica
southwestern cupgrass	Eriochloa	acuminata
wild poinsettia	Euphorbia	heterophylla
Carolina geranium	Geranium	carolinianum
ground ivy	Glechoma	hederacea
common sunflower	Helianthus	annuus
ducksalad	Heteranthera	limosa
hydrilla	Hydrilla	verticillata
cogongrass	Imperata	cylindrica
red morningglory	Ipomoea	coccinea
ivyleaf morningglory	Ipomoea	hederacea
pitted morningglory	Ipomoea	lacunosa
bigroot morningglory	Ipomoea	pandurata
tall morningglory	Ipomoea	purpurea
palmleaf morningglory	Ipomoea	wrightii
smallflower morningglory	Jacquemontia	tamnifolia
green kyllinga	Kyllinga	brevifolia
henbit	Lamium	amplexicaule
Amazon sprangletop	Leptochloa	panicoides
bearded sprangletop	Leptochloa	fusca var. fascicularis
sericea lespedeza	Lespedeza	cuneata
tall fescue	Lolium	arundinaceum
Italian ryegrass	Lolium	perenne ssp. multiflorum
carpetweed	Mollugo	verticillata
cutleaf evening-primrose	Oenothera	laciniata
red rice	Oryza	sativa
yellow woodsorrel	Oxalis	stricta
fall panicum	Panicum	dichotomiflorum

torpedograss	Panicum	repens
dallisgrass	Paspalum	dilatatum
cutleaf groundcherry	Physalis	angulata
clammy groundcherry	Physalis	heterophylla
buckhorn plantain	Plantago	lanceolata
annual bluegrass	Poa	annua
prostrate knotweed	Polygonum	aviculare
Pennsylvania smartweed	Polygonum	pensylvanicum
ladysthumb	Polygonum	persicaria
common purslane	Portulaca	oleracea
wild radish	Raphanus	raphanistrum
Florida pusley	Richardia	scabra
curly dock	Rumex	crispus
sicklepod	Senna	obtusifolia
coffee senna	Senna	occidentalis
hemp sesbania	Sesbania	herbacea
giant foxtail	Setaria	faberi
yellow foxtail	Setaria	pumila
green foxtail	Setaria	viridis
arrowleaf sida	Sida	rhombifolia
prickly sida	Sida	spinosa
horsenettle	Solanum	carolinense
silverleaf nightshade	Solanum	elaeagnifolium
eastern black nightshade	Solanum	ptychanthum
lawn burweed	Soliva	sessilis
johnsongrass	Sorghum	halepense
common chickweed	Stellaria	media
dandelion	Taraxacum	officinale
puncturevine	Tribulus	terrestris
broadleaf signalgrass	Urochloa	platyphylla
Texas millet	Urochloa	texana
common cocklebur	Xanthium	strumarium

^{*} Bold -- plants only

Table 2. 2014 SOUTHERN WEED CONTEST CROP AND WEED RESPONSE TO HERBICIDES

Crop	os*	Wee	eds
1. cotton	6. southern pea	1. broadleaf signalgrass	7. Palmer amaranth
2. field corn	7. soybean	2. ivyleaf morningglory	8. pitted morningglory
3. grain sorghum	8. sunflower	3. giant foxtail	9. prickly sida
4. peanut	9. squash/zucchini	4. hemp sesbania	10. seedling johnsongrass
5. rice	10. sweet potato	5. large crabgrass	11. velvetleaf
		6. barnyardgrass	12. sicklepod

*At least 6 crops and 6 weeds must be included

Potential Herbicide Families and Herbicides				
Amide	Isoxazoline			
1. propanil (4.0 lb ai/A POST)	12. pyroxasulfone (0.106 lb ai/A PRE)			
Sulfonanilide 2. cloransulam-methyl (0.0394 lb ai/A PRE)	Phenoxy 13. 2,4-D (0.5 lb ae/A POST)			
Benzoic acid 3. dicamba (0.25 lb ai/A POST)	N-Phenylphthalimide 14. flumioxazin (0.064 lb ai/A PRE)			
Bipyridylium 4. paraquat (0.5 lb ai/A POST) + NIS	Phosphinic acid 15. glufosinate (0.54 lb ai/A POST) + NIS			
Chloroacetamide 5. S-metolachlor (1.25 lb ai/A PRE)	Pyrimidinedione 16. saflufenacil (0.0223 lb ai/A POST) + MSO			
Cyclohexanedione 6. sethoxydim (0.191 lb ai/A POST) + COC	Quinoline carboxylic acid 17. quinclorac (0.5 lb ai/A POST) + MSO			
Dinitroaniline 7. pendimethalin (1.0 lb ai/A PRE)	Substituted urea 18. diuron (0.5 lb ai/A PRE) 19. fluometuron (1.0 lb ai/A PRE)			
Diphenylether 8. fomesafen (0.25 lb ai/A POST) + COC	Sulfonylurea 20. chlorimuron (0.0156 lb ai/A PRE) 21. trifloxysulfuron (0.007 lb ai/A POST) + NIS			
Glycine 9. glyphosate (0.77 lb ae/A POST) + NIS	Triazine 22. atrazine (1.5 lb ai/A POST) + COC 23. metribuzin (0.375 lb ai/A PRE)			
Imidazolinone	Triazolinones			
10. imazethapyr (0.063 lb ai/A POST) + NIS	24. carfentrazone (0.023 lb ai/A POST) + COC			
Isoxazolidinone 11. clomazone (0.375 lb ai/A PRE)	Triketone 25. mesotrione (0.094 lb ai/A POST) + MSO			

^{**}COC = crop oil concentrate at 1% (v/v); NIS = nonionic surfactant at 0.25% (v/v); MSO = methylated seed oil at 1% v/v. Some herbicide formulations may include an adjuvant system and do not require additional adjuvants. Label rates should be followed and adjusted based on soil type. The soil types will range from a silt loam to silty clay loam (0.7-1.1% O.M., CEC of 12-18, pH of 5.9-6.8).

PROBLEM SOLVING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Potential Crops (6):

Cotton Field corn Grain sorghum Soybean Sunflower Tomatoes

Weeds:

Any weed from the 2014 weed identification list.

Herbicides:

Any herbicide labeled in the crops listed above.

Scoring:

The 'farmer' and a judge will independently score each contestant from predetermined scoring sheet.

Role:

Each contestant will be assuming the role of a chemical company representative, independent crop consultant, or state extension specialist.