



2022-2023 WSSA Standing Committee Report

Committee Name and Code: Standardized Plant Names P23

Committee Chair: Theresa Piskáčková

Committee Members (includes sub-committee members): Karla Gage, Lauren Lazaro, Mark Czarnota, Joan Campbell (ex-off P22), Shawn Askew, Camp Hand, Eugene Law, Ben Sperry (board liaison), Lee Van Wychen

Committee affiliates: Gerry Moore (USDA), Chris Taliga (USDA)

Board of Directors Liaison: Rob Richardson

Committee members rotating off: Theresa Piskáčková, Shawn Askew, Camp Hand, Eugene Law, Karla Gage all have terms ending in 2023. Eugene, Karla, and Theresa have agreed to renew their term.

Recommended members to replace those rotating off: Hope to find recommendations for more western representation at WSSA meeting before beginning the scientific name review.

SUMMARY OF PAST YEAR'S ACTIVITIES:

Committee goals for 2022 were:

- Complete the common name review using the guidelines approved in 2021
- Submit list of suggested names to board
- Begin work on a paper based on discussion and findings of the review process

Committee accomplishments *impact of activities on membership, publications, policy, education, other, etc.*

Background and summary as submitted to the board November 10, 2022:

In 2020 the plant names committee was appointed to review the composite list of weeds with the initial goal to find harmony between the USDA plants database and ours and we undertook a largescale review of the entire WSSA composite list of weeds database and the conflicts with USDA. We expanded our committee to have four teams of two to review different sections of the database. In the discussions of the committee we encountered many inconsistencies in naming in the database which we wished to clear up. In doing so we found that, due to the nature and use of a common name, we had to adjust and make many exceptions. Even amongst our committee of 8, we do not have unanimous agreement on all name proposals; however, what follows are the name suggestions which had agreement by at least 5 members for considerations and the guidelines which were used to suggest a change. Any name not included remains as WSSA composite list of names and any further background and details can be provided upon request to the committee.

Summary

Initial objective 2020: standardize common names between USDA plants and WSSA composite list for merge on new USDA website (for details ask to see archived “document 1_introduction”)

Intermediate objective 2021: Define rules for standardizing common names within WSSA composite list (for details ask for “Preparing Guidelines” and summary “New Direction”)

Objective 2022: Use reduced list of rules for finding names that could or should be changed, suggest new names. For review the committee will need to, a) highlight differences with old WSSA names and b) highlight differences between new list and the current USDA common names. The new list will be approved by WSSA board and will be negotiated with USDA if any common name conflicts should not be designated “weed” due to conservational value.

Of the entire list of WSSA common names (2847 unique species) most were decided not to change and to retain their WSSA name despite the conflict with USDA name (**Figure 1**). There were 371 names for potential suggested change, from minor spelling to complete adoption of the USDA name for various reasons (**summarized in Table 1**). Of the 2471 species without any suggested change, there were 207 species which had a taxonomic discrepancy which will need to be looked at more closely in the next review and were not considered for common name changes at this time. The final table (**Full summary document submitted to the board**) are the names which were suggested to change and the vote totals by the members of the committee. The list was reviewed and voted by 7 of the 8 committee members with 1 abstention.

To reiterate: In most cases (2471), we agreed to retain the current WSSA name for our official composite list; however, there are some common names that are suggested to change to generally accomplish one of three goals a) remove inaccurate or insensitive names, b) simplify spelling, and c) in some cases harmonize with USDA name. To identify the reason for which a name was changed, we include a letter corresponding to the following justifications (**summarized Table 1**, detailed document “Guidelines2022.05.17 “)

- WSSA names DISAGREE with USDA but not suggested to change
- WSSA names AGREE with USDA and not suggested to change
- P23 suggested change now matches USDA
- P23 suggested change now closer match to USDA
- P23 other suggested changes

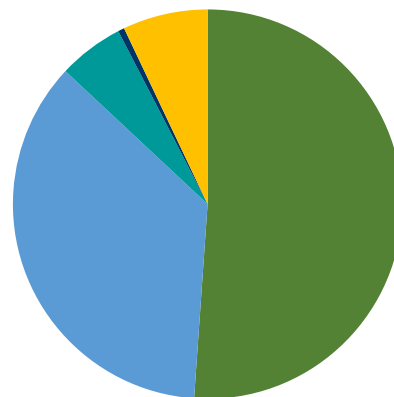


Figure 1. Scope of review and overview of suggested changes

Table 1. Summary of changes according to justification and comparison to USDA Plants.

| Justification | Suggested changes | Match USDA | Closer to USDA |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| a) Inappropriate or inaccurate names | 14 | 7 | 4 |
| b) Reducing punctuation | 206 | 71 | 5 |
| c) Adding spaces in compound words that are confusing or cumbersome | 71 | 31 | 2 |
| d) Adding elements of the USDA name when WSSA name is non-specific or when the USDA name is more widely used or it is less popularly referenced a weed | 32 | 29 | 3 |
| e) When small changes in ending or capitalization could harmonize with USDA | 18 | 17 | 1 |

WSSA funds

No funds requested.

Current state of the committee's projects or activities

The names were submitted to the WSSA board in November and will be discussed at the WSSA board meeting on the first day of the WSSA conference. We have begun work on a review paper that will summarize the process and the many relevant topics that came up during this two-year time. We will begin work on the scientific names review after some new recruitment.

New information posted on the WSSA website

Not currently, but after the approval process names will be updated on the website and the synonyms will be submitted to USDA to include on USDA Plants.

Summary of plans for next year (changes in goals, key initiatives, plan of action, etc.):

This has been a much larger and more difficult task for the committee than originally proposed by the board in 2020. The size of our committee was doubled and with so many new people we had a bit of a learning curve. We will have some turn over this year, but many of us are staying to begin the large scientific name review procedure. We anticipate this to be more challenging, but achievable now with more experienced group of people. We will still welcome new faces but not replace the entire team. We especially hope to gain people with more familiarity in western states and botanical background.

A subset of the committee is working on a review paper that could be submitted to Weed Science sometime next year. Summarizing and reflecting on the conflicts and challenging with the common name review should help us to formulate a good approach for the scientific name review.

We will also work with Lee Van Wychen to use the results of the Common and Troublesome weeds survey to possibly add new names to the WSSA composite list.

Recommendations for Board or Membership action:

We will discuss the name change suggestions with the board on January 29, 2023 at the afternoon meeting.