



**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Lee Van Wychen  
Science Policy Director  
National & Regional Weed  
Science Societies  
[Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net](mailto:Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net)  
202-746-4686

**October 28, 2008**

## **Organizations Join Forces to Explore the Impact of Weeds and Invasive Plants on Farmers, Gardeners and Land Managers**

– *Joint meeting of North Central Weed Science Society and Midwest Invasive Plant Network to be held December 8-11 in Indianapolis*

(LAWRENCE, Kansas) – The growing impact of weeds on farming, gardening and land management will be the focus of the first joint annual meeting of two leading Midwest weed science organizations.

Both the North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) and the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) will meet December 8-11 at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis, Ind. The event is expected to draw students, educators, and professionals from public and private organizations who are interested in the effective control of weeds and invasive plants.

Four days of symposia and workshops will span a broad range of topics – including integrated weed management strategies, the impact of invasive plants on wildfires and ecosystems, ornamental plants with the potential to become weeds, the impact of white-tailed deer on weed proliferation, and more.

Among the featured speakers will be Dr. Tom Stohlgren, a research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey, who will discuss the impact of climate change on weeds.

“Effective weed management strategies are important not only to land managers and the agricultural industry, but also to thousands of home gardeners across the region and the nation,” said Mick Holm, conference program chairman and a member of the NCWSS Board. “By combining the annual meetings of the region’s leading weed management organizations, we hope to significantly expand the educational and networking opportunities offered.”

For more information on the conference or to register to attend, visit <http://mipn.org> or <http://www.ncwss.org>.

### ***About the Midwest Invasive Plant Network***

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network is a nonprofit association established in 2002 to address region-specific issues in invasive plant management. It includes a diverse group of participants and partners, including: The Nature Conservancy; the U.S. Forest Service; the Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources; the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; the National Park Service; the Federal Highway Administration; the Chicago Botanic Garden; and various state and local invasive plant councils and groups. For more information, visit <http://mipn.org>.

### ***About the North Central Weed Science Society***

The North Central Weed Science Society facilitates the exchange of ideas, experiences and information related to weeds and their management in rural and urban habitats in the North Central U.S. Members include students and university personnel, crop consultants, state and federal agency personnel, private researchers, extension educators, representatives of the crop protection industry and others interested in weeds and weed management. For more information, visit <http://www.ncwss.org>

### ***About the Weed Science Society of America***

The Weed Science Society of America, a nonprofit professional society, was founded in 1956 to encourage and promote the development of knowledge concerning weeds and their impact on the environment. The Weed Science Society of America promotes research, education and extension outreach activities related to weeds, provides science-based information to the public and policy makers, fosters awareness of weeds and their impact on managed and natural ecosystems, and promotes cooperation among weed science organizations across the nation and around the world. For more information, visit [www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net).

###