



# North American Weed Management Association

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## Situation

Harmful non-indigenous plant species cost the agricultural industry over \$20 billion annually, a cost ultimately passed on to all consumers. Harmful non-indigenous plant species invade our natural ecosystems from coast to coast displacing native species, destroying wildlife habitat and recreational areas, and increasing soil erosion and stream degradation. These effects will be felt for generations. Prevention, Early detection and effective and efficient management are the most cost-effective means of preventing or reducing the loss caused by invasive plant species. The Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW) has prepared a conceptual design of a National Early Warning and Rapid Response System for Invasive Plants and is field testing elements of the system. They will continue the development process and field-testing remaining elements of the system leading toward national implementation.

## Position

The North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) supports these actions to establish a National Early Warning and Rapid Response System. Early detection and rapid response is recognized as a priority in the national strategy endorsed by individuals and organizations across the United States. Early detection and rapid response to new invasive species can only be accomplished when weed scientists, weed managers, land managers and the public is continually informed about actual and potential introductions. NAWMA strongly supports the phased development and implementation of a National Early Warning System. Greater efficiency of effort will be accomplished by coordinating weed eradication efforts that begin at the local level.

*NAWMA supports completion of the FICMNEW National Early Warning and Rapid Response System for Invasive Plants Action, the establishment of pilot projects and the national implementation of the system. We ask the FICMNEW member agencies to support their agency representatives in this important effort. WE DESIRE A PROGRESS REPORT AT NATIONAL INVASIVE WEEDS AWARENESS WEEK ON THESE EFFORTS.*

### Distribution:

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USDA Invasive Species Liaison – Hilda Diaz-Soltero  
USDI Invasive Species Coordinator – Gordon Brown  
FICMNEW Co-Chairs - Gina Ramos and Mike Ielmini

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