

This pdf was served from: <http://www.nzpps.org>



A paper from  
**Proceedings of the 15th NZ Weed Control Conference (1962)**  
Copyright © 1962 The New Zealand Plant Protection Society (Incorporated)

These proceedings are a record of the papers presented at the New Zealand Plant Protection Society's Annual Conference. Papers published in *New Zealand Plant Protection* and on this website are the property of the Society. The Society reserves the right of the first publication of such papers in complete form. Following publication in *New Zealand Plant Protection*, the society has no objection to publication in condensed form, as long as the full reference to the original paper is given. Reproduction in full of any published paper can only be carried out with the permission of the Society. The Society has no objections to publishing the website location of any particular paper.

The New Zealand Plant Protection Society (Incorporated) is not responsible for statements or opinions advanced in papers and shall not be liable for the commercial performance of any products or any losses arising from the use of the information contained herein.



The NZ Plant Protection Society website is  
hosted by HortNET: <http://www.hortnet.co.nz>  
HortNET is an Internet-based information product of  
The Horticulture and Food Research Institute of New Zealand Limited  
Private Bag 11030, Palmerston North, New Zealand. Ph 64-6-356-8080

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

F. C. ALLEN

ANNUAL MEETINGS are often looked upon as necessary evils to be hastened through as quickly as possible. This could be understandable in our case when the days are taken up with a heavy technical programme. However, the annual meeting should be a time when members express their views on the society's policy, indicate whether it is performing the function members require, and consider how to ensure that its usefulness can be maintained or increased.

After lengthy consideration of the New Plymouth and earlier Conferences your Executive made alterations to the organization of the Conference with the view to obtaining more discussion from the floor. Sessional chairmen have been instructed to give their opinion of the value of the papers in the light of the evidence presented and the subsequent discussion. The prizes for the best paper and best presentation of paper have been discontinued as it is believed that they cannot help the standard of presentation in the present type of conference.

As agreed at the last annual general meeting, the scope of the Conference has been enlarged to include pests additional to weeds. Unfortunately, this meeting has had to be held too early to enable members to judge the value of these alterations. They should be watched critically as their success can only be gauged by the expression of members' opinions. If the broader scope, including plant pests as a whole, meets with approval despite the extra length of time involved and the intention expressed earlier to maintain our identity as a Weed Conference, then we shall have to alter our rules and title and include on the Executive representatives of the other disciplines involved.

Consideration of the Conference's aims and objects is also desirable because, not only should we as participants derive benefit, but we should also be able to indicate to others outside the Conference the functions it performs. This is necessary because New Zealand is notoriously "conference happy" and there is no doubt that an appreciable portion of the national effort is dissipated by organization of, and attendance at conferences. Reaction to this state of affairs is inevitable, and, while the members of each and every conference usually consider its existence justified, we, as a basically scientific organization, should be able to combat reaction with well marshalled facts. The fact for

the reaction in our case is that this Conference results in the re-distribution of wealth to the tune of about £6,000 annually. The money comes in most instances from the funds of employers, whether Government, local body or commercial. While this sum could be placed in perspective as about 1s. 6d. per farmer, it could also be regarded as a useful mark for economies in the case where an employer may expend a hundred or even several thousand pounds in salaries, expenses and services to send staff to the Conference. Any reduction in active membership must automatically reduce the value of the Conference to those still attending so is to be avoided where possible. Should specific cases of withdrawal of attendance for this reason occur, then your Executive can prepare a strong case, but the best assurance for the continuance of the Conference lies in each member being sure in his own mind that the Conference is doing a worthwhile job.

In view of these remarks, it is very pleasing to note Messrs Ferens' and Gordon's papers discussing extension and co-operation. The Weed Control Conference has been shaped to its present form to maximize co-operation between persons involved in experimentation, and those engaged in advising farmers (extension). It is possibly some measure of our success that Mr Gordon draws his examples of cases where better co-operation would be helpful from entomological problems. I commend these papers to you.

The extremely good, and profitable, co-operation between experimental and extension workers in weed control is due in part to the appreciation by the experimental or research worker that the extension worker is capable of interpreting interim results in the light of his own field experience and appreciates that the long-term consequences of any action must be kept in mind. This has led to the very rapid assimilation of chemical weed control into good farm practice since, working on the basis of interim results, the extension worker can often save time by getting useful information on the vital question of reliability in the field before a trial programme is completed.

This mutual respect exists but is not so strongly developed amongst those dealing with pests other than weeds and leads to some frustration at the extension level. Some of the explanation lies in the fact that research and extension look at problems from opposite directions. The scientist is primarily concerned with finding the long-term solution to problems, many of which require years of investigation, especially when problems of life cycles and population balance are involved. The extension worker is concerned with a problem at a particular instant. His client,

the farmer, wishes to maintain or increase the productivity of his farm on a year by year basis and asks, "What can I do to combat this difficulty now?" Ideally, the extension worker requires an interim method to alleviate the position and to be capable of appreciating it as such. This is where the Conference comes in. Because of the understanding developed between members, the research worker realizes that his work may be discussed and published before the full programme is completed without undue fear that findings will be misapplied or criticized because they are not complete. On the other hand, the extension worker is enabled to apply the latest information to the field problem which exists now. I think that this is a workable arrangement because I think it is fair to say that all members of this Conference work for the same ultimate aim — to increase the net return and total production from the land.

In conclusion, I should like to mention two items which are the cause of much satisfaction to this society.

First, the summer field courses have been an outstanding success due to enthusiastic local committees and the large attendances drawn from all organizations interested in weed control. One-day meetings were held last season in Hamilton, Palmerston North, and Mosgiel and arrangements are already under way for further courses in the coming summer. This year emphasis will be placed on examination of problems in the field and will include insect pest problems through the co-operation of the Entomology Division of the D.S.I.R.

Secondly, we have the pleasure of the company at this meeting of B. P. J. Molloy, the first recipient of this society's prize donated in alternate years to Lincoln and Massey Colleges to help students progressing to a higher degree whose field of work is related to the objects of the New Zealand Weed Control Conference. Mr Molloy, a member of the staff of the Department of Agriculture, is working for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. His study of the autecology of sweet brier is particularly apposite and will contribute to future progress in the control of this weed.