

2026 CWSS Annual Conference Agenda

Santa Barbara, California January 28-30, 2026

"Back to Basics"

*DPR Requested Hours Law, Other
CCA AZ, ID, OR, WA, CCA, GCSAA, ISA, MT, NV hours pending.*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

3:30pm-6:30pm	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION Maryana Schmidt, PAPA
5:00pm-9:00pm	CONFERENCE EXHIBIT/POSTER SETUP

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

7:00am-5:00pm	REGISTRATION AND CEU SIGN-IN/OUT Maryana Schmidt, PAPA
7:00am-5:00pm	EXHIBITS - San Rafael/ Sierra Madre Room & STUDENT POSTERS - Santa Barbara Foyer
7:00am-7:50am	STUDENT POSTER JUDGING – Santa Barbara Foyer
	ALL Wednesday SESSIONS will be held in Santa Ynez Room
7:55-8:00	WELCOME TO THE CONFERENCE
8:00-10:00	SESSION A: WEED SCHOOL: Common Factors Affecting Herbicide Performance
8:00	Mandeep Singh, UC ANR Important Considerations to Optimize Herbicide Performance
8:30	Brad Hanson, UC Davis Weather and Climate Factors that Can Affect Herbicide Performance
9:00	James Schaeffer, Helena Agri-Enterprise, LLC The Importance of Sprayer Calibration and Weed Control
9:30	Jorge Angeles, UC ANR Biological Factors Influencing Herbicide Performance
10:00-10:30am	MORNING BREAK
10:00-10:30am	STUDENT POSTER JUDGING – Santa Barbara Foyer
10:30-12:00pm	SESSION B: STUDENT RESEARCH UPDATES
10:30	Manasvi Singh, Fresno State University Investigating Herbicide Resistance in Shepherd's Purse Populations in CA's Central Valley
11:00	Tong Zhen, UC Davis Evaluation of Branched Broomrape Seed Responses to Nitrogen Fertilizers and Flooding
11:30	Consuelo B. Baez-Vega, Chico State University Herbicide Screening for CA Wild Rice – Weed Efficacy and Crop Phytotoxicity
12:00	STUDENT POSTER JUDGING – Santa Barbara Foyer
12:00-1:30pm	LUNCH (on your own)
12:00-1:30pm	STUDENT LUNCHEON (by invitation) – San Miguel/ Santa Rosa Room
1:30-3:30pm	SESSION C: GENERAL SESSION:
1:30	Rick Miller, Corteva (retired) Herbicide Use and Choices on Utility Rights-of-Way Across Ecotypes
2:00	Bob Brenton, PCA CA RoW Risk Management, with a Focus on Controlling Invasive Grasses
2:30	Jens Beets, USDA Invasive Species Management in Complex Aquatic Systems: Past, Present, and Future
3:00	Kassim Al-Khatib, UC Davis Herbicide Efficacy and Drift from Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle Application in Rice Cropping System
3:30-4pm	Afternoon Break - Vendor Displays & Poster Viewing
4-4:15pm	STUDENT AWARDS
4:15-5:15pm	SESSION D: WHAT'S NEW IN WEED CONTROL
5:15-6:45pm	CWSS MEMBER RECEPTION – San Rafael/ Sierra Madre Room

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

7:00am-5:00pm	REGISTRATION AND CEU SIGN-IN/OUT – Maryana Schmidt, PAPA
7:00am-5:00pm	EXHIBITS San Rafael/ Sierra Madre Room & STUDENT POSTERS - Santa Barbara Foyer
7:00am-7:30am	COFFEE & PASTRY SERVICES – Santa Barbara Foyer

MORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS

	San Miguel/ Santa Rosa Room		Santa Ynez Room
8:00-10:00	SESSION E: AQUATICS	8:00-10:00	SESSION F: TREE AND VINE
8:00	Rene Sandoval, American Lady Vet Services Sustained HAB Control at Lake Elsinore: One-Year Results from Shock N' Lock Method	8:00	Tong Zhen & Brad Hanson, UCCE Evaluation of Electrical Weed Control in California Organic Almonds.
8:30	Whitney Brim-DeForest, UCCE Winged Water Primrose in California: Survey and Control in Aquatics	8:30	Ryan J Hill, Management of Summer-Active Perennial Weeds Benefits from Utilization of Residual Herbicides
9:00	Tom Moorhouse, Clean Lakes Inc. Treatment of Invasive Mussels	9:00	Rohith Vulchi & Brad Hanson, UC Davis Glyphosate & Glufosinate: Fate in CA Almond Orchards
9:30	Stephen Burkholder, Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd. An Overview of the New Pest Control Permit	9:30	Alexandre T Rosa, Managing Herbicide Carryover in Orchards & Vineyards
10:00-10:15	MORNING BREAK	10:00-10:15	MORNING BREAK
10:15-12:15	SESSION G: MINOR CROPS	10:15-12:15	SESSION H: ROADSIDES, UTILITIES, AND INDUSTRIAL SITES
10:15	Matthew Fatino, UCCE Herbicide Performance Screenings in CA Agave	10:15	Chris McDonald, UCANR Using WeedCUT to Help Improve IPM on Roadsides
10:45	Ben Faber, UCCE Whacking Weeds in Coastal Subtropical Trees	10:45	Bob Brenton, Brenton VMS Fire Risk Management in Utility Operations
11:15	Steve Fennimore, Emeritus UC Davis A Role for Steam in Specific Crops	11:15	Scott Oneto, UC Extension Fuel Break Management Trial Results
11:45	Milt McGiffen, UC Riverside TBD	11:45	Jerome Otto, Corteva Agriscience Fire Risk Management in Roadside Operations
12:15pm-1:30pm CWSS BUSINESS & AWARDS LUNCHEON - San Rafael/ Sierra Madre Room			

AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS

	San Miguel/ Santa Rosa Room		Santa Ynez Room
1:30-3:00	SESSION I: TURF AND ORNAMENTAL	1:00-3:00	SESSION J: AGRONOMY
1:30	Paul Marquardt, Corteva Agriscience Controlling Crabgrass vs. Goosegrass in California Turf	1:30	Whitney Brim-DeForest, UCCE Watergrass in California Rice Systems: Identification and Control
2:00	Milt McGiffen, UC Riverside You Can Manage Nutsedge	2:00	Anil Shrestha & Katherine Waselkov, CSU Fresno Herbicide-Resistant Weeds or Herbicide-Resistant Seeds, the Management Problem

2:30	Don Frantz, Wilbur-Ellis Improving Our Spraying Efficacy in Pesticide Applications	2:30	Nick Clark, UCCE New Herbicide Mode of Action for Preplant Use in Safflower
3:00	Jen Browning, BASF Insects in Managed Turf & Ornamentals	3:00	Guilano Carneiro Galdi, UC ANR Weed Management in Alfalfa
3:30-3:45	AFTERNOON BREAK	3:30-3:45	AFTERNOON BREAK
3:45-5:45	SESSION K: FORESTRY, RANGE AND NATURAL AREAS	3:45-5:45	SESSION L: VEGETABLE CROPS
3:45	Chris Berry, Center for Biodiversity & Ecological Restoration Integrating Prescribed Fire & Grass Specific Herbicides.	3:45	Oleg Daugovish, UC ANR Weed Control in Cilantro and Onion with S-Metolachlor
4:15	Chris McDonald, UC Agriculture & Natural Resources A Tale of Two Invasives, Black Mustard & Stinknet.	4:15	Abigail Brondos, UC ANR Weeds in Ditches as Habitat for Insect Pests and Natural Enemies of Key Importance to Vegetable Production
4:45	Robert Freese, Irvine Ranch Conservancy Use of Pre-Emergent Herbicides for Site Preparation	4:45	Aaron Becerra-Alvarez, Oregon State University Exploring Electric Weed Control as a Cover Crop Termination Tool for No-Till Organic Systems
5:15	Brian Allen, UC Agriculture & Natural Resources Using Virtual Fence Technology & Grazing for Weed Control	5:15	Clebson G. Goncalves, UC ANR Response of Organic Herbicide Using Traditional Broadcast and Pinpoint Spray Technology and Influence of Adjuvants to Reduce Splashing

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

7:00am-11:15am	REGISTRATION & CEU SIGN-IN/OUT Maryana Schmidt, PAPA
7:00am-7:30am	COFFEE & PASTRY SERVICE – Santa Barbara Foyer
	ALL Friday day SESSIONS Will be held in Santa Ynez Room
7:30-12:00	SESSION M: LAWS & REGULATIONS
7:30	John Mikesell, Ventura County Ag Inspector The Non-Negotiables: Work Requirements, Handler Safety, and Avoiding Off-Target Contamination
8:30	Harvard Fong, CA Dept. Of Pesticide Regulation Respiratory Protection
9:30-9:45	MORNING BREAK
9:45	Jose Chang, Santa Barbara Ag Commissioner Regulatory Updates & Common Violations
10:45	Karey Windbiel Rojas, UC IPM Pesticide Jeopardy
11:45am-12:00pm	ADJOURN & TURN IN CEU SCANTRONS