

PACIFIC NORTHWEST EXTENSION ACTIVITIES ON JOINTED GOATGRASS

Joseph P. Yenish*, Roland Schirman, Doug Schmale, and Eric Zakarison, Washington State University, Pullman

The Steering Committee of the National Jointed Goatgrass Research Program recognized that effective technology transfer was critical to the success of the program. Thus, the National Extension Coordinator Position was developed in the initial phase of the program.

The first two individuals to hold the position; Dr. Brian Jenks, University of Nebraska, and Dr. Mack Thompson, Colorado State University; made a priority of increasing awareness of the jointed goatgrass problem among farmers and grain handlers. The third coordinator, Eric Zakarison, Washington State University (WSU), took information more directly to growers via popular press articles, direct contact, and further expansion of the website. Dr. Tony White, Kansas State University, continued direct grower contact, expanded use of the media, and even further developed the website. Following Dr. White's departure, the current system of two regional extension coordinators, Dr. Roland Schirman for the Intermountain and Pacific Northwest Regions along with Doug Schmale for the Southern and Central Grain Plains Regions developed. Currently, both Roland's and Doug's positions are administered by WSU Extension although both work from their respective homes in Washington and Nebraska.

As the program matured, WSU became the center of technology transfer for the National Jointed Goatgrass Research Program. In addition to employing the two extension coordinators, WSU houses the webpage (Figure 1) has published and distributed extension bulletins generated by the program (Figure 2).

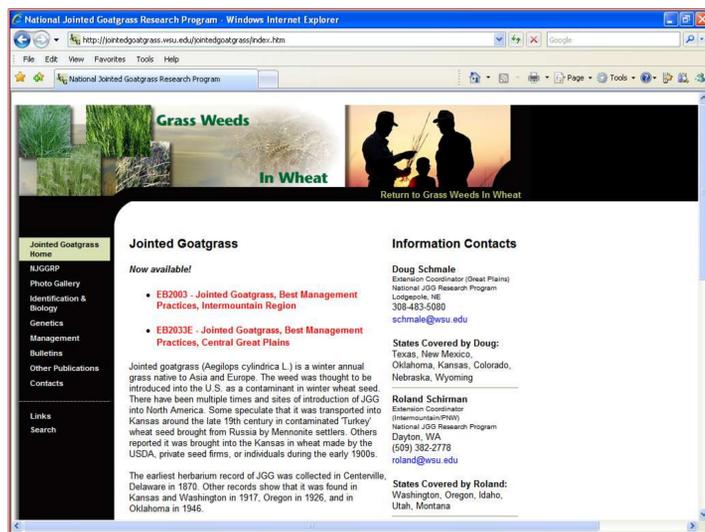


Figure 1. The homepage of the National Jointed Goatgrass Research Program. (www.jointedgoatgrass.org) is currently under expansion to include additional winter annual grass weeds.

Development of the website was an initial technology transfer priority of the program with instructions to develop on-line information geared towards producer usage. Following its origins in Nebraska the website moved into the Kansas State University System, and recently to the computer network of WSU. Work is underway to expand the website to include other winter annual grass weeds troublesome in wheat.

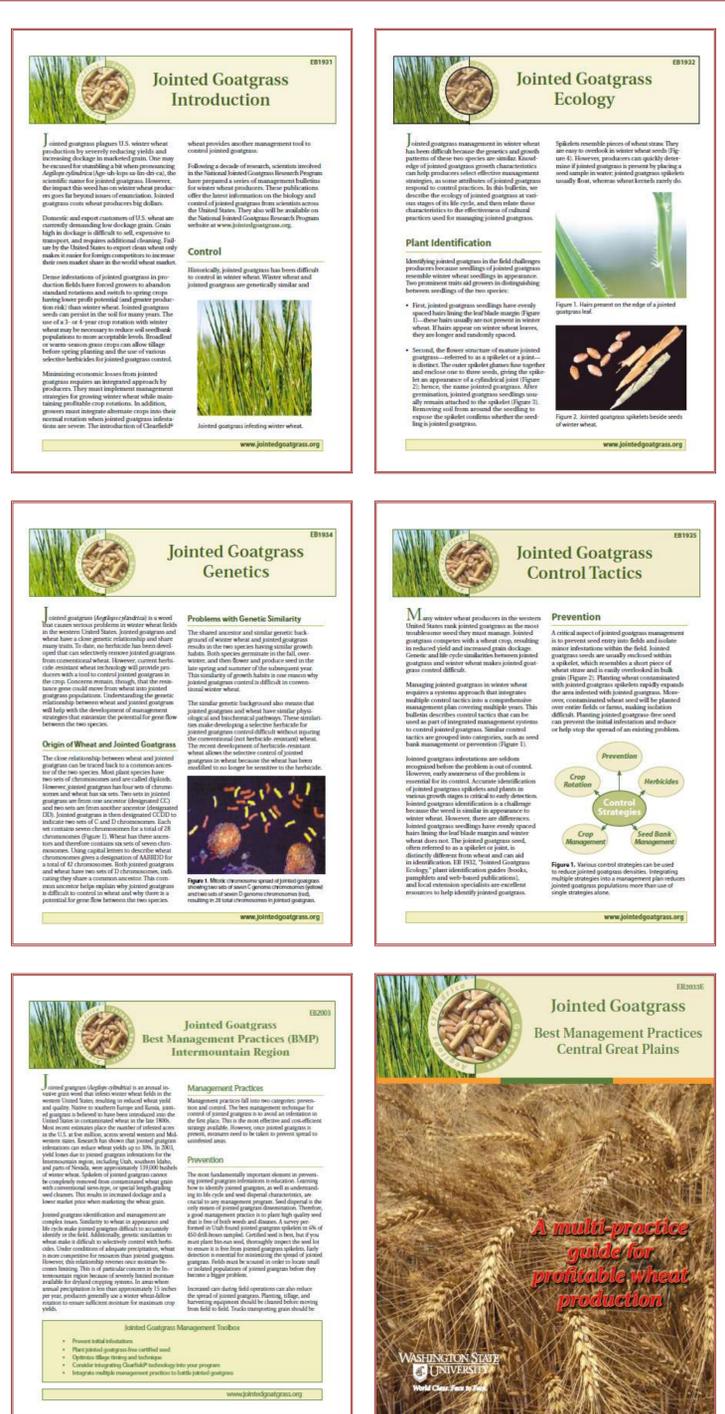


Figure 2. Extension bulletins are published by Washington State University and are available as downloadable PDF files.

The current arrangement of two part-time extension coordinators in different locations, both administered through WSU, has been successful. The potential for collaboration between programs has increased while still allowing extension efforts to better address regional needs. Dr. Schirman and Mr. Schmale both have experience in technology transfer. More importantly, their experience in winter wheat production systems in their respective regions better allows for directed programming and delivery. Both individuals have expressed a willingness in providing informational updates for the website on a voluntary basis once the program has formally ended.

WSU-Extension has been the publication agency for all Extension Bulletins (Figure 2). These efforts will continue through two additional bulletins. Centralizing publication production has provided a consistency of format which adds to program recognition.

WSU's Department of Crop and Soil Sciences also provides technical web assistance. The departmental communications coordinator is responsible for updating website information. Again this technical resource is under the same WSU administrative unit as the extension coordinators, but in much closer physical proximity. This closeness has streamlined the website update process. This centralization will aid in the expansion of the website to include additional grass weed species (Figure 3).

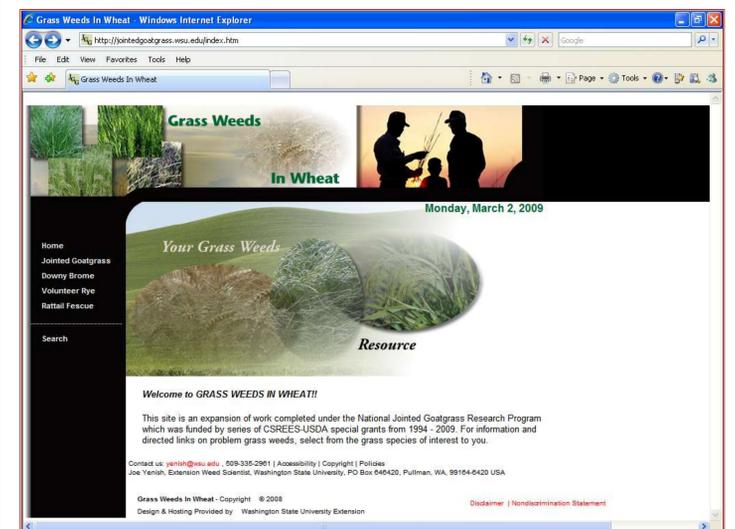


Figure 3. The National Jointed Goatgrass Research Program is expanding to include additional winter annual grass weeds.

Winter wheat growers in the western states infested with jointed goatgrass have benefited from the diversity and efforts of all individuals who have served in the role of extension coordinator. As the program concludes, WSU will continue to house the [jointedgoatgrass.org](http://www.jointedgoatgrass.org) website expanding it into a central source of information on annual grass weeds in winter wheat. Such efforts will require continued collaboration of weed scientists through organizations such as the WERA-077, Managing Invasive Weeds in Wheat. The National Jointed Goatgrass Research Program has provided the base for continued collaborative efforts on grass weeds in wheat.