



# **18<sup>th</sup> European Weed Research Society Symposium**

## **EWRS 2018**

17-21 June 2018  
Ljubljana, Slovenia



**New approaches for  
smarter weed management**

**Book of Abstracts**

[www.ewrs2018.org](http://www.ewrs2018.org)



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### **The response of weed species to water stress**

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Reducing herbicide use requires identifying alternative strategies to regulate weeds. Using crop species that are more competitive for resources than problematic weed species is one lever, but requires a better understanding of weed response to water stress. The present study aimed to quantify the response of three weed species to water stress. In a greenhouse experiment, *Alopecurus myosuroides*, *Amaranthus hybridus* and *Abutilon theophrasti* were grown at 4-5 water regimes, ranging from 75 to 20% of the water holding capacity. Plants were grown individually in pots. Each pot was automatically weighted three times per day, and watered whenever necessary to reach the targeted water regime. A nutrient-rich solution was used. The lower water regimes probably concurred with lower nutrient levels, in line with what is usually going on in agricultural fields. Seven weeks after germination, plants were sampled. For the three species, leaf, stem and root biomasses were affected by the water regimes. The intensity of the response to water stress differed among species, with *A. theophrasti* being the most sensitive and *A. hybridus* the least sensitive species. For plant leaf area, the ranking of plant species for the sensitivity to water regime was similar to the ranking for the potential plant leaf area (i.e. leaf area at 75 % of the water holding capacity). We will identify mathematical equations accounting for the response of plant growth and biomass allocation to water stress. The aim is to identify generic equations, i.e. valid for a wide range of annual species. They will be included in the FlorSys model which simulates weed dynamics and crop canopy growth in virtual fields over the years. The final aim is to use the completed model to identify sustainable weed management strategies that are robust to climatic hazards. Funding: INRA, CoSAC project (ANR-15-CE18-0007), ReMIX (EU-H2020-727217).



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