

LINKING QUESTIONS TO ANSWERS: IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AMONG RESEARCHERS, LAND MANAGERS, AND EXTENSION PERSONNEL. John Cardina and Mark J. Renz, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, Wooster, OH 44691, and Assistant Professor, Department of Agronomy, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706.

Effective invasive plant management involves a wide range of people and organizations. While much research has been conducted on invasive plant biology and invaded site characteristics, many times this information is not delivered or applicable to the land managers and private landowners. The purpose of this session is to discuss why this occurs and how communication between researchers, land managers and extension personnel can be improved. Survey results showed that although researchers and land managers believe cooperation is important for addressing invasive plant issues, communication between the two groups is lacking. Researchers tended to communicate most frequently with other researchers, and land managers communicated with other land managers to solve invasive plant problems. Responders indicated that interactions were limited by time and funding constraints rather than by lack of knowledge or interest. Specific examples of research that involves the participation of the land managers in the development of research projects will be presented along with an explanation of how obstacles were overcome in completing the project.