

NEWSLETTER OBSERVATORY OF HIGH-STAKE SPECIES FOR HUMAN HEALTH



OBSERVATOIRE DES ESPÈCES
À ENJEUX
POUR LA SANTÉ HUMAINE

France

In this issue

French international ragweed days 2021 & ragweed observatory's 10 years old event

Creation of the « Observatory of high-stake species for human health »

Bird seed food in Belgium

International ragweed society conference, Budapest 2022



FRENCH INTERNATIONAL RAGWEED DAYS 2021!

The International Ragweed days take place from June 15th to June 30th each year in France. This year, nearly forty-five events were organised around the country - see the map attached.

International Ragweed Day occurs on the first Saturday of each summer, with the aim to increase awareness and public understanding of the issue of ragweed spread. This specific day was chosen because at this date the growing season for the plant is still early, which thereby gives enough time for setting up initiatives to fight its spread. All over the world, public authorities and territory managers organise public events in order to raise awareness of the public on the spreading of ragweed and its impact.

In France, these events were organised in collaboration with ragweed control structures such as FREDON, ARS (health agencies), CPIE (Environmental initiatives permanent centers)... Events such as ragweed field clean-ups, exhibitions, conferences or even field tours took place during those days in order to teach how to recognise the plant.



France

FRENCH RAGWEED OBSERVATORY 'S 10 YEARS OLD EVENT

The French Ragweed Observatory is 10 years old ! In order to celebrate its birthday, a digital symposium was organised on June 15th. It was a friendly way to introduce the 2021's ragweed days season. This event broadcasted on YouTube (in French), was divided in several parts : live interventions, videos and interactive questionnaires with the audience.

Introduced by Jérôme Salomon, French General Director for Health, the symposium welcomed several speakers and allowed to present various subjects: the Observatory's history, its actions and key moments over the past ten years; the role of local actors in the control of ragweed and the announcement of the creation of the « **Observatory of high-stake species for human health** » (see next article) as part of the French **Health-Environment National Plan 4** « **one environment, one health** »¹.

The second part of the symposium was divided in three parts : the role of the society within this dynamic, the role of the **public law**, and **technical and scientific innovations** for the control of ragweed expansion.

The full symposium is available on [the Observatory YouTube channel](#) (French only).

N°1-JULY 2021



CREATION OF THE « OBSERVATORY OF HIGH-STAKE SPECIES FOR HUMAN HEALTH »

Some known alien exotic or locally expanding species, fauna or flora, are the cause of human health problems (respiratory allergy, swallowing or skin contact risks...). Moreover, other species (Giant hogweed, *Datura*, pine and oak processionary caterpillars, ...) have to be monitored by public authorities and general public¹.

Therefore, professionals and the general public have to be informed, so as to organise and coordinate actions against those species. Integrated in the « One health » approach, those actions should take into account the well-being of ecosystems and promote nature-based solutions.

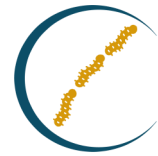
Thus, in France, the “Human Health Impactful Species Observatory” has been created (especes-risque-sante.info) managed by [FREDON France](https://fredon-france.fr). In addition to managing the French Ragweed Observatory, it will also manage other observatories, starting with the “French Processionary Caterpillars Observatory” in 2021 (chenilles-risque.info).

Endemic but proliferating in Europe, oak and pine processionary caterpillars have indeed more and more impact on French forests and on public health.

Are you a part of, or familiar with the existence of a similar structure in your country? Please, let us know by sending an email at : chenille-risque@fredon-france.fr



OBSERVATOIRE DES ESPÈCES
À ENJEUX
POUR LA SANTÉ HUMAINE



OBSERVATOIRE
DES
CHENILLES PROCESSIONNAIRES

BIRD SEED FOOD IN BELGIUM



Observatoire wallon des
Ambrosies

The Walloon Ragweed Observatory² informs and sensitizes the general Walloon public about the importance of staying vigilant regarding ragweeds.

In order to better understand the ragweed introduction made by birds seed food, the Walloon Ragweed Observatory is supervising Zoé Etcheverria's internship.

Indeed, former studies showed that birds seed food could play an important role in ragweed spread, even in the areas not yet invaded by the plant. Z.Etcheverria's work will consist in estimating the presence of ragweed seeds in domestic and wild birds seed-food. The outcome of this sieving and binocular magnifier counting will soon be available.

Both French and Walloon Observatory distributed last year a general public questionnaire regarding this subject. You will find the results on ambrosie-risque.info.

INTERNATIONAL RAGWEED SOCIETY CONFERENCE, BUDAPEST 2022



The president and members of the IRS committee are pleased to announce that the next IRS CONFERENCE will take place in **Budapest in September 8 & 9, 2022³**.

« What's new in the world with *Ambrosia* ? »

Please make sure to **save the date** on your agenda and kindly forward this message to anyone in your network who you feel might be interested in attending. You will receive all important information concerning dates, registration, booking, fees, etc. in the course of the year 2021.

Organization: President (Michel Thibaudon) and members of the International Ragweed Society and the local organizing committee: László Makra, Donát Magyar and Tamás Szigeti (National Public Health Center, Hungary)

Please download and share the leaflet [Download](#)

INFORMATION SOURCES

1. [Le Gouvernement lance le 4ème plan national santé environnement « Un environnement, une santé » \(solidarites-sante.gouv.fr\)](#)
2. [Ambrosie \(wallonie.be\)](#)
3. [International Ragweed Society – A scientific organization. Promote the knowledge of the weed, control the allergenic pollen.](#)

REDACTION :

Alexandra MARTIN
Marilou MOTTET
Alice SAMAMA



CONTACT :

especes-risque-sante@fredon-france.fr

Tél : +33 (0)1 53 83 71 75

Find all the Observatory actions on social medias :



Former Ragweed Observatory letters can be [consulted here](#)

SHORT NEWS

- The IUCN World Conservation Congress will take place in Marseille (France) from the 3rd to 11th September 2021 : <https://www.iucncongress2020.org/>
On this occasion, the French Ragweed Observatory along with other partners will organise an escape game about ragweeds ! We hope to see you there !