



In the frame of [Task 5 on Training, knowledge and technology transfer](#) the COST Action “Sustainable management of *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* in Europe” ([SMARTER](#)) launches this call to participate in a

## Training School on Controlling Common Ragweed by Vegetation Management

27 July – 1 Aug 2015 in Vienna, Austria and Munich/Freising, Germany

SMARTER is an interdisciplinary network of experts working on the invasive plant common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*). It includes professionals involved in the control of common ragweed, health care professionals, aerobiologists, ecologists, economists, and atmospheric and agricultural modellers. Nearly 200 participants from 33 countries participate.

SMARTER provides a forum for discussing long-term management and monitoring options for Europe. We aim to develop new innovative management solutions, such as a synergy between biological, physical and chemical control measures and vegetation management. We also develop a framework to assess their cost-effectiveness in mitigating the effects of ragweed.

[SMARTER Working Group 2 \(WG 2\)](#) focusses on developing control strategies through vegetation management. It now offers this training school on scientifically investigating the effects of vegetation

**Organizer:** Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Gerhard Karrer, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (Coordinator SMARTER WG2), together with Prof. Dr. Johannes Kollmann, Technical University Munich.

**Objectives:** Develop skills on designing, performing, analysing and evaluating mowing/cutting experiments with and without competition, aiming at the control of common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*). Learn how to measure and analyse the most relevant response variables for control efficacy, and how to quickly evaluate field experiments with respect to efficacy in harming spontaneous ragweed populations. See detailed program below.

**Participants:** the training school is targeting young scientists and professionals involved in ragweed control. Maximum number of participants: 10.

**Grants:** each participant that is eligible according to the COST regulation is offered an individual grant by the COST-Action SMARTER of € 1200 after completion of the training school. Participants need to be professionally affiliated to any of the [parties of SMARTER](#) (note: people from COST International Partner Countries cannot be granted).

## Procedure for participation

**Application for participation:** by sending a motivation letter and [CV and SMARTER-questionnaire](#) to Gerhard Karrer ([gerhard.karrer@boku.ac.at](mailto:gerhard.karrer@boku.ac.at)) until **April, 26<sup>th</sup> 2015**. Applicants should consult the [SMARTER homepage](#) to become familiar with the aims and activities of SMARTER, specifically WG2.

**Application for a grant:** in case you are eligible for a grant from the COST Action SMARTER, state in your motivation letter if you are interested in obtaining a grant for participating in this Training School.

**Selection and preliminary acceptance** of applicants by the organizers via e-mail by May, 11<sup>th</sup> 2015.

**Registration & registration fee:** to **get finally accepted** the selected participants have to 1) [become a SMARTER member](#) AND 2) pay a registration fee of **€ 250** to the organizer (see bank details below) by bank transfer, both before **June, 10<sup>th</sup> 2015**.

Owner: Universitaet für Bodenkultur Wien, Dept. für Integrative Biologie,  
IBAN: AT953200008300500512, BIC: RLNWATWW  
Subject matter: „7831009578-SMARTER-Training-School“

**Other costs:** the participants have to pay all of the following expenses: travel, accommodation, and meals. Only the local transport (Vienna, Munich) is included in the registration fee.

**Accommodation:** Reservations for hotels will be organized at an affordable price. Please indicate in the motivation letter if you prefer a single room or accept room sharing with another participant.

## Program

In Freising we will perform experimental work on *Ambrosia* plants grown in the glasshouse (biometric measures, biomass) followed by statistical analysis of the data. If there is time, we also will be able to visit German populations in the field. In Austria, it is planned to visit several experimental areas where optimization trials of mowing and adding competing vegetation were performed, and ragweed populations from different habitat types. The participants will be trained in performing biometric measurements and evaluation of cutting regimes as well as soil seed bank sampling. On Saturday morning (Aug, 1<sup>st</sup> 2015) a final discussion round will be organized at the BOKU University with an option to demonstrate ragweed soil seed bank analysis in the lab.

### Details of procedure:

**Arrival:** latest on Sunday, July, 26<sup>th</sup>; 16:00, Vienna, Airport. Meeting point: Vienna Airport Taxi-Platform for flight arrivals.

**End:** Saturday, August, 1<sup>st</sup>, 14:00, Vienna, Airport, and 14:30 Vienna railway stations

The participants will be fetched at the airport in Vienna and all be driven at once to the hotel in Freising\*), where we will stay for 3 nights. On Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> we will travel back to Vienna by car (already organized) and stay in a hotel nearby Vienna next to the experimental plots. On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> we leave to visit several experimental plots between Vienna and South-eastern Styria, staying for 2 nights in a nice hotel close by. Due to the lack of space in some hotels we can offer single rooms only for a few people.

If you agree to share a room with another participant, please mention it in your motivation letter. Shared rooms are less expensive.

Flights to and from Vienna must be arranged by the participant. All the other activities (accommodation, local transport) will be arranged by the organizer. The participants are asked to pay the registration fee in advance, and accommodations and meals during the training school on their own. The individual grant provided by SMARTER is expected to cover all expenses because we try to accommodate you at fair prices.

\*) If anybody prefers to go directly to Munich, please inform us as soon as possible. We will start from Vienna and end at Vienna because flights are by far cheaper to and from the same destination compared to single flights to/from different destinations.

For further information please visit the official [SMARTER website](#) or contact the local organizers of the event.