

**This month's profile is of Ms. Kristen Obeid. She is the OMAFRA Weed Management Specialist in horticulture. Get to know Kristen below!**

**Previous work and volunteer experience in Weed Science:**

My first work related experience in weed science began as a summer student in 1995 with AgrEvo (now Bayer) working on the first glufosinate-tolerant canola (Liberty-Link). In 1996 I worked as summer student with DowElanco, just before their name change to Dow AgroSciences (DAS). I then left Ontario to pursue a Masters' degree from the University of Manitoba. I completed my thesis looking at different rates and placements of phosphorous and potassium fertilizer on wild oat competition in spring wheat and flax. Next, I worked with DAS in Winnipeg and then moved back to Ontario with a job with DAS until 2001 when I joined OMAFRA as Vegetable Crops Specialist. I became the OMAFRA Weed Management Specialist for Horticulture Crops in 2009.

**How did you become involved with CWSS and when?**

My first involvement with CWSS was in 1999 when I received a travel award to participate at the conference in Winnipeg.

**What has the extent of your involvement been?**

I have served on the Ontario Local Arrangement Committee in 2011 and 2018. *(Editor's note: Kristen also received the Excellence in Weed Extension Award at the 2018 CWSS meeting!)*

**Favorite memory/experience in your weed science career to date?**

This is a very hard question. I have so many. But, the best feeling is when a new registration comes through the minor use system. It is very satisfying to know that I have helped growers with significant resistant management issues continue to produce their crop.

**What is your favorite weed and why?**

My favorite weeds are all members of the Amaranthus family. They are so prolific, are resistant to 6 or more herbicide groups and will be our on-going challenge. We may just have to acquiesce and start growing them on a large scale as crops.

**What are you career goals/future plans in weed science?**

My goal is and will always be to make a difference. I want to continue to help the growers of the 125 horticulture crops that I cover be successful by finding solutions to their ever-evolving myriad of weed problems.

