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?

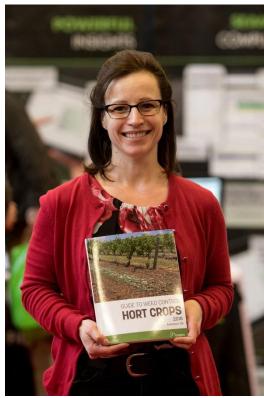
My first involvement with CWSS was in 1999 when I received a travel award to participate at the conference in Winnipeg.

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.