

Name: Gavin Graham

Occupation: Weed Management Specialist / Provincial Minor Use Coordinator

Previous work and volunteer experience in Weed Science: I grew up on a mixed farm in Saskatchewan, so weed experience came early for me. The weed that stands out the most is round-leaved mallow – we hosted a national event at the farm and that was one of the ‘gifts’ that someone left behind - it rapidly spread throughout our cattle pens. During my undergrad, I worked for a registrant on their research team and had my Master’s program with AAFC in Saskatoon in weed bio-control. I have been with the New Brunswick government for 15 years now, with an active research and extension program for producers.



How did you become involved with CWSS and when?

I was a graduate student for the ‘first’ CWSS meeting in Saskatoon where we transitioned away from the Expert Committee on Weeds and remember Jerry Ivany cutting the ‘thistle’.

What has the extent of your involvement been? (i.e. have you served on committees/executive?) After moving to New Brunswick, I have been a regular attendee at meetings and have served on the Board as Extension Representative, LAC Chair for the Moncton meeting and now as 2nd VP. I was also involved in the Membership and Communications committees.

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

Not a specific memory, but I really enjoy doing field research and trying to find answers for specific weed problems for producers. Any time I am having trouble on the ‘Zoom’ calls in the winter, I remind myself that summer will come and field season will help make it all worthwhile. (Picture is from fall spray in wild blueberry)



What is your favorite weed and why?

For today, I’ll go with marsh hedge-nettle (*Stachys palustris* L.). We had a very effective research collaboration with a local potato producer who was struggling with this weed. We all learned from each other and eventually found some effective management options. I also used this weed as one of the ‘months’ in the Invasive Species Calendar that was made for the CWSS meeting in Victoria and eventually was a co-author on the Biology of Canadian Weeds account for this species. The nutlets, finger-like rhizomes and pretty flowers are just a bonus.

<https://daafmaapextweb.gnb.ca/010-002/Thumbnails.aspx?Culture=en-CA&Id=234>

What are your career goals/future plans in weed science (if you are comfortable sharing)?

The near future plan is to finalize my trials for 2021 spray season and finish up some fact sheets for producers. I am looking forward to welcoming everyone to the 2022 CWSS meeting in Halifax, and really look forward to a return to ‘in-person’ events.