Name: Hayley Brackenridge

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Department of Plant Agriculture

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

Growing up on a cash crop farm in Eastern Ontario, my understanding of weed science was initially peripheral. With effective herbicides and tolerant crops, weed management was of little concern compared to other challenges we faced on the farm. During my undergraduate degree in biology at Queen's University, I was amazed to learn about the dynamic evolution of herbicide resistant weeds. In my third year, I was given the opportunity to begin a mentorship thesis studying the



reproductive strategies of herbicide resistant populations of palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*), which eventually became my honours thesis. By the end of this, I was fascinated with weeds for their vigour and rapid adaptation, so I continued my studies in weed science as a master's student at the University of Guelph.

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

I attended my first CWSS meeting in 2018 at Niagara Falls ON with my undergraduate supervisor. I later attended the 2020 virtual conference, where I presented my master's research on cover cropping for weed suppression during the student presentation session.

## What has the extent of your involvement been? (i.e. have you served on committees/executive?)

So far, I have only had the opportunity to attend CWSS conferences, but I look forward to future opportunities to become more involved.

#### Favourite memory/experience in your weed science career to date?

My favourite memory in my weed science career is sorting weed samples with other summer students at AAFC Harrow ON. We would have thousands of plants to identify, count, and bag for drying but the days flew by with our spontaneous dance breaks and terrible weed puns.

### What is your favourite weed and why?

My favourite weed is velvetleaf (*Abutilon theophrasti*) for its velvety soft leaves and sunny yellow flowers. While spending hours in the humid 35°C weather in Harrow ON sampling weeds for my thesis work, seeing velvetleaf is a welcomed reminder to pause and enjoy the beauty of weed science.

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

Following my master's degree, I intend to pursue a career focused on advancing the sustainability of weed management while maintaining grower profitability. By continuing to investigate and advocate for incentivized adoption of ecological weed management techniques such as cover cropping, I hope to promote agriculture as a climate solution with reduced reliance on chemical weed control.