

Name: Rob Nurse

Occupation: Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



Previous work and volunteer experience in Weed Science:

My interest in weed science began in 1997 when I enrolled in a plant autecology course at Western University. After the completion of this course I began an honours thesis project looking at the seed germination characteristics of several weed species. The project really opened my eyes to the resilience of weeds and how they can survive in the worst of environments. I continued on to complete an MSc. at the University of Guelph in 2000 and a Ph.D. at Cornell University in 2004 both in Weed Ecology. After my graduate studies I worked as a post-doc at AAFC, Harrow until 2006 when I was hired as an indeterminate research scientist. I have also been an Associate Editor for the Canadian Journal of Plant Science (2009-2012), Weed Technology (2014-present) and the Agronomy Journal (2018-present), and Editor-in-Chief for the Canadian Journal of Plant Science (2012-2013).

How did you become involved with CWSS and when?

My first exposure was as a graduate student (MSc.) when I attended the Expert Committee on Weeds (ECW) in Ottawa. It was the first time that I had ever presented anything to an audience that large.

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

I was not able to attend meetings from 2001 to 2004, but returned in 2005 for the Niagara Falls meeting. Since 2015, I have had the pleasure of being a Board of Directors member (Publications Director/Webmaster). I have also assisted on several local arrangement committees (2005 Niagara Falls, 2011 Niagara Falls, 2015 Edmonton, 2018 Niagara Falls, 2019 Kelowna, and the virtual meeting in 2020).

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

I have so many favourite memories from my career in weed science that it is impossible to choose just one. However, I think I treasure the friends and collaborations I have made over the years the most.

What is your favorite weed and why?

My favourite weed is velvetleaf (*Abutilon theophrasti*). I spent many hours studying this weed for my PhD. I was especially interested in how the seed dormancy of the species was altered by competition with crops and/or the presence of other weeds.

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

I hope to continue expanding my research program in the area of maternal environment, reproductive fitness and seed germination/dormancy.