

Name: Jichul Bae

Occupation: Research Scientist at AAFC Agassiz Research and Development Centre, Agassiz, British Columbia (July 2017 - Present)

Previous work and volunteer experience in Weed Science:

Born in South Korea, I was an avid snowboarder who moved to Canada for snow (...and school) and had zero interest in plants except for snowboard wood core materials. My interest in invasive plant species started in one particular biology class, "Plants and Herbivores" during my third year undergraduate at Carleton University, and this class left a lasting impact on my life. After I finished my undergraduate study, I returned to Korea to fulfill two years of military service. Every summer and fall, my battalion was assigned to help the community remove common ragweed plants, one of the most problematic invasive plant species in my home country. I hated common ragweed so much, but at the same time, my curiosity about this weed was fueled by its tenacious persistence. Then, my journey with common ragweed and weed science began. As my master's research at Seoul National University, I investigated the allelopathic potential of common ragweed in response to CO₂ elevation. My Ph.D. research under the supervision of Dr. Alan Watson (McGill University) and Dr. Diane Benoit (AAFC Saint-Jean-sur Richelieu) focused on ecology and management of roadside common ragweed populations. After my graduate studies, I worked on ecology and management of glyphosate resistant common ragweed as a post-doc at AAFC Harrow under the supervision of Dr. Rob Nurse and Dr. Eric Page. In 2017, I was hired as a research scientist at AAFC Agassiz, BC. Because I had not found or heard about common ragweed here in the Lower Mainland of BC, I thought I was completely free from this weed until Dr. Page sent me some collection records in the region.



How did you become involved with CWSS and when?

My first involvement with the CWSS-SCM was in 2012 when I attended the Winnipeg meeting as a graduate student.

What has the extent of your involvement been?

- I am currently the Publications Director and Webmaster for the CWSS-SCM.
- I have also assisted on local arrangement committees for: 2019 Kelowna, 2022 Vancouver, and 2023 Winnipeg meetings.
- In 2021, Eric Page and I co-chaired the CWSS-SCM Virtual AGM.

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

· Meeting (and drinking with) old friends/colleagues at the CWSS-SCM annual meetings. I was not able to attend the meetings from 2020 to 2022 as I was on parental leaves. I can't wait to reconnect with old friends/colleagues at this year's meeting in Winnipeg!

· Working as a post-doc with the AAFC Harrow Weed Science team (Rob Nurse, Eric Page, Sydney Meloche, Kerry Bosveld, Elaine Lepp and summer students). Before joining the team, my previous research/work experience mostly focused on weed/invasive plant ecology/management in non-agricultural settings such as city parks, roadsides, rights of ways and residential areas. So, while working with them, I learned a lot about weed management in agricultural settings and farming. Most importantly, I had so much fun with them!

What is your favourite weed and why?

Common ragweed. Well, I hated this weed so much during my military service (and when I daily collected fresh pollen from common ragweed in a very hot and humid greenhouse for my post-doc work). But this weed made me interested in becoming a weed scientist and helped me connect with great people!!

What are your career goals/future plans in weed science?

Making every possible effort to train/mentor the future generations of weed scientists and help growers manage their weed problems.