

Name: Jonathan Rosset

Occupation: Research Technician at the University of Manitoba



Previous work and volunteer experience in Weed Science:

I have been involved in Weed Science one way or another since about 2004 when I started work in a seed cleaning plant for a forage and turf seed company where I had to monitor the quality of the process by evaluating the weed seeds present in the “cleaned” sample. Eventually, I decided to attend the University of Manitoba where I started teaching the weed science and management labs for fellow diploma and undergraduate students. I then completed a master’s degree (2020) evaluating cultural weed management practices in soybean production using the idea of the critical period of weed control. I took a break in the middle of my studies to work as an agronomist in southern Alberta for a couple years advising producers on crop and weed management. I now work as a research technician for the Digital Weed Ecology lab at the University of Manitoba where I get to immerse myself in data collection, field trial management, and weed biology & ecology.

How did you become involved with CWSS and when?

I became involved with CWSS as a graduate student in 2017 where I presented a poster on my project and have been a member of the society almost every year since.

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

I was the graduate student representative for 2018 and 2019 and stayed on as a member of the membership committee since then.

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

I have a couple of favourite experiences from my time in weed science! The first one recalls the time when I was in southern Alberta when glyphosate resistant Kochia was first identified and was able to participate in the initial (semi-official) survey of the spread. The other is still ongoing through my teaching of weed ID skills with students and seeing their faces as they realize how to identify a plant.

What is your favourite weed and why?

Must I choose only one! Teaching weed ID has allowed me to observe and learn about many different weeds. I love how each weed has a slightly different method in its environmental adaptation, how it escapes management techniques, and thrives under (sometimes) terrible conditions! During my life there have been times where I connect to these plants in some anthropomorphic way!

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

I have flexible career aspirations that do not take the form of a specific goal or plan, but are more aligned with educating the public on these, sometimes misunderstood, plants. I hope to be a part of the change in attitude towards weed management where the industry is accepting, within reason, of their presence in crops and natural areas.