



# Fostering an Awareness of Weeds and Their Impact on the Environment

Weeds and invasive plants impact the world around us and our daily lives. They can reduce crop yields, choke waterways, trigger allergies, disrupt the natural habitats of plants and animals, create fire and safety hazards, and reduce aesthetic and property values. These are just a few of the environmental impacts caused by weeds.

## What is the Weed Science Society of America?

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) is an organization that fosters an awareness of weeds and their impact on our environment. We provide science-based information to the public and government policymakers while promoting research, education, and outreach activities. Founded in 1956 as a nonprofit professional organization, WSSA has approximately 2,000 members from around the world. Members include academic, governmental, and private industry research scientists, students and educators, extension educators, and federal, state, county, and private land managers.

## The Importance of WSSA and Weed Scientists

WSSA members are actively involved in addressing some of the most important issues facing our modern world. Our objectives are to:

- Maximize crop yields and feed a growing population as cropland is lost to urbanization
- Eliminate aquatic weeds that clog our waterways and impact water quality
- Control invasive weeds that compromise biodiversity in our rangelands and wild areas
- Develop integrated weed management techniques for conventional and organic farming
- Reduce the impact of weeds on human health and allergies
- Develop new and improved integrated weed management strategies in response to climate change
- Manage weed resistance to herbicides
- Prevent soil erosion by optimizing the role of tillage in weed control
- Manage weeds that fuel devastating fires

## Careers in Weed Science

Weed scientists are employed in a diversity of professions:

- University teaching, research, and agricultural and urban extension education
- Development, evaluation, and enforcement of weed control regulations with government, universities, and private industry
- Design and implementation of effective integrated weed management systems with private pest management consulting firms

- Research, product development, sales, and marketing with companies specializing in weed management in croplands, aquatic habitats, parks, and urban areas

To prepare for a career in weed science, you typically need a bachelor's degree in agronomy, biochemistry, biology, chemistry, ecology, horticulture, plant physiology, soil science, or a related field. For a research position in academia or industry, an advanced degree is required.

## To Become a Member of WSSA

Membership in WSSA is open to individuals across North America and around the globe who are interested in the study of weeds and their impact on our environment.

Benefits include:

- Subscriptions to three outstanding journals: *Weed Science*, *Weed Technology*, and *Invasive Plant Science and Management*
- A quarterly online newsletter
- Continuing education and workshops
- Reduced rates at WSSA's annual meetings
- Interaction with regional weed science societies
- Opportunity to provide scientific expertise that impacts national policy and regulation

To find out more about WSSA membership benefits or to join, visit [www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net) and click on the "Join/Renew" link.

