

Careers in Weed Science

Ramon Leon: Associate Professor of Weed Biology and Ecology at North Carolina State University

Primary duties

Research (50%), Teaching (25%), Extension (20%), Service (5%). My research focus is on understanding changes in weed dynamics in response to management and environmental factors.

How did you begin working in Weed Science?

I was hired as a research assistant in the Weed Science program of the University of Costa Rica, and there I found that this area of work combined nicely my two preferred subjects: plant physiology and ecology in an applied context.

What do you love about your job?

Working on topics that are of great importance for food production as well as being able to be scientifically creative. Also, I love working with students.

What is exciting about the future of weed science?

It is one of the most important problems for food production in the future just second to drought, and it is critical for poverty reduction in developing countries.

What do you wish you knew as a student?

How important weed management is for society.

Imparting Wisdom

Learn as much as you can and be curious and critical.

Involvement in Professional Societies

American Association for the Advancement of Science. 2014-present

American Peanut Research and Education Society. 2014-present

Northeastern Weed Science Society. 2018-present
Weed Science Society of North Carolina. 2017-present

Aquatic Plant Management Society. 2021-present

American Society of Agronomy. 2012-present

Crop Science Society of America. 2012-present

International Weed Science Society. 2003-present

Weed Science Society of America. 2001-present
Colegio de Ingenieros Agrónomos de Costa Rica. 2008-2012

California Weed Science Society. 2006-2007
American Society of Plant Biologists. 2003-2005

North Central Weed Science Society. 2000-2005



Education

BS 2000 University of Costa Rica *Agronomy*

MS 2003 Iowa State University *Seed Science and Weed Science*

PhD 2005 Iowa State University *Seed Science and Weed Science*

PhD 2005 Iowa State University *Genetics*

Path to Current Role

Associate Professor (with tenure), Weed Biology and Ecology, North Carolina State Univ. 2020-present

Assistant Professor, Weed Biology and Ecology, North Carolina State Univ. 2017-2020

Associate Professor (with tenure), Weed Science, Univ. of Florida 2017

Assistant Professor, Weed Science, Univ. of Florida 2012-2017

Professor, Crop Protection, EARTH Univ. 2007-2012

Researcher, EARTH Univ. Foundation 2009-2012

Assistant Professor, California Polytechnic State Univ. 2005-2007

Graduate Research Assistant, Iowa State Univ. 2000-2005

Research Assistant, Univ. of Costa Rica 1998-2000

Other interests?

Reading

If you are interested to learn more about Ramon's career journey you can email him at rleon@ncsu.edu.