

# Careers in Weed Science

Lauren Lazaro: Assistant Professor of Weed Science and Agronomy at Louisiana State University

## Primary duties

I joined the School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences as an Assistant Professor with an academic year (12 month) appointment of 55% research and 45% teaching. I am responsible for conducting and coordinating statewide research and education in weed science and agricultural production systems in Louisiana. The data collected from these on-farm and research trials are used to assess the impacts of systems management on weeds and integrated weed management tactics to make recommendations for the implementation of sustainable practices.

## What do you love about your job?

My favorite thing about my job is the interaction that I have with students, colleagues, mentors, and friends. Those interactions foster some amazing things like research ideas, collaborations, friendships, etc.

## What is exciting about the future of weed science?

An exciting thing about weed science right now are the endless research possibilities that include other disciplines (i.e., entomology, pathology, soil science, machine learning, computer science, precision ag, etc.) to develop the most effective and efficient management practices for farmers.

## Imparting wisdom

Do not be afraid to think/try/be outside the box. Unique perspectives are needed in all aspects of life and can be refreshing.

Be honest. Be honest about your strengths, weaknesses, who you are, what you have to offer. You always have more to learn, but you are enough.

Manage your time well. Make time for school, research, and work, but also for fun, family, friends, and yourself. Your job is not your entire life, so enjoy it!

I also cannot wait to see how each of you shapes the weed science community. You each have something amazing to offer. So go out and do good.



## Education

B.S. Sweet Briar College *Biology*

M.S. Southern Illinois University Carbondale *Plant Biology*

Ph.D. Southern Illinois University Carbondale *Plant Biology with emphasis in Weed Ecology*

## Path to Current Role

Louisiana State University AgCenter Baton Rouge, Louisiana:

Assistant Professor - Weed Science and Agronomy  
August 2017 to Present

University of Arkansas Fayetteville, Arkansas:  
Post-Doctoral Research Associate July 2015 to July 2017

Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Illinois:  
Graduate Research Assistant January 2012 to May 2015

Graduate Teaching Assistant August 2009 to December 2011

## Other interests?

Being outdoors, food, and community.

Find Lauren on Twitter or email her at  
[LLazaro@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:LLazaro@agcenter.lsu.edu)

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## Involvement in Professional Societies

### Membership in Professional Societies:

WSSA, SWSS, ASA/CSSA, Sigma Xi

### Roles within Societies:

Endowment Foundation Board of Trustees member,

Southern Weed Science Society, 2022 to 2027

Executive Committee Member, GROW, 2021 to

present

Secretary for the Weed Science Society of America,

2021 to 2024

Southern Cover Crop Council, Conference Committee

Co-chair, 2020 to 2023.

Research Lead, GROW, 2020 to present

Associate Editor for Frontiers in Agronomy, 2020 to

present.

Reviewer Board Member for Agronomy, 2020 to

present.

Louisianan State University Sigma Xi Chapter's

Secretary, 2019 to present.

Louisianan State University Sigma Xi Chapter's

Graduate Student Research Grant-in-Aid Committee

Chair, 2019 to present.

Chair of the Weed Science Society of America

Website Development Committee, 2019 to 2022.

Committee member of the Weed Science Society of

America Publications Board Committee, 2019 to

2022.

Committee member of the Weed Science Society of

America Standardized Plant Names Subcommittee,

2019 to 2022.

Louisiana State University Sigma Xi Chapter Delegate,

2018 to present.