

Careers in Weed Science

Theresa Piskackova: Post-doctoral Research Scholar, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague

Primary duties

I am part of a team of weed researchers at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague. We assist each other in the conducting of weed research from herbicide screening, weed mapping, and weed biology studies. I am responsible for designing, conducting, analyzing, and writing original research and teaching a few classes each semester.

How did you begin working in Weed Science?

While I grew up on a small family farm in Southern Illinois, I took a particular interest in weed science research after working at the Belleville Research Center in the summer of 2012. I became fascinated with the chemistry of herbicides and the challenge of finding solutions that could help my family, and other farmers like my family, better manage weeds.

What do you love about your job?

I love working with other people who are excited about plants and putting that knowledge into practical solutions for farmers.

What is exciting about the future of weed science?

The study of weeds is an exciting intersection of plant biology between nature and domestication. I think there is something for everyone whether you are interested in technology, sociology, biology, or chemistry.

Imparting wisdom

Take time to observe everything. Especially, to be open to observations you weren't expecting. Always be curious.

Be open to exploring. You may not know about all of the possibilities. My dream job has continued to change as I have met more people and learned more about weeds.



Involvement in Professional Societies

European Weed Research Society
Weed Science Society of America
Public Awareness Committee 2021-pres.,
Standardized Plant Names Committee
2020-pres.
Northeastern Weed Science Society
Graduate Student Rep 2017-2020
Future Direction Committee 2021
North Central Weed Science Society

Education

B.S. 2014 Southern Illinois Univ. Carbondale
M.S. 2016 North Dakota State University
Ph.D. 2020 North Carolina State University

Path to Current Role

Graduate Research Assistant, 6 yr
Field biology intern at BASF, 9 mo
Undergraduate research assistant, 3 yr

Other interests?

I like exploring the countryside to identify plants, gardening, learning, and playing music together with family and friends.

If you are interested to hear more about Theresa's story or ask any questions, you can email her at tpiskackova@af.czu.cz or find her on LinkedIn.