

WEED SCIENTIST

Weed scientists play an important role in managing vegetation. This may include identifying weeds and learning how to combat them or determining how herbicides interact with plants.

WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES WILL I HAVE?

- Conduct research to diagnose problems in the field or establish weed management systems for private crop management or consulting companies
- Identify weeds for farmers, golf courses, and homeowners
- Offer suggestions on weed control methods to landowners both through chemicals, cover crops and mechanical means
- Develop weed control products
- Recommend or sell weed control products
- Work to find chemical formulations that are effective in killing resistant weeds
- Study environmental and human health impact of chemicals that could be used
- Plant crop trials both in fields and greenhouses to use for research
- Oversee lab staff/ field laborers
- Organize and analyze research data
- Submit research to journals and scholarly papers
- Present presentations at conferences and to farmers on research findings and new techniques and formulations
- Provide insight to government agencies for policy development



WHAT EDUCATION & TRAINING IS REQUIRED?

Master's or Doctorate in weed science, ecology, plant ecology, plant physiology, agronomy or soil science

THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES ARE RECOMMENDED...

Agricultural education, biology, chemistry, environmental science, computer courses, public speaking

TYPICAL EMPLOYERS

Universities, extension, agricultural chemical and private research companies, non-profits; may be self-employed as a consultant

FUTURE JOB MARKET/OUTLOOK



SUGGESTED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

- Weed Science Society of America
- International Weed Science Society

AVERAGE ANNUAL FULL-TIME SALARY

\$111,000