

NEWSS Graduate Student Writing Contest

Supported by *The Northeastern Weed Science Society Endowment Fund*

Objective: To support the development of effective writing skills of our graduate students to communicate with a broader audience.

Eligibility: Any graduate student currently enrolled in an MS or PhD Weed Science degree program in the Northeastern region or has completed an MS or PhD Weed Science degree program no more than 6 months prior to the contest submission deadline is eligible to participate. Either the graduate student or their advisor must be a current member of NEWSS.

Audience: Papers should be targeted to practitioners (e.g., growers, Master Gardeners, Extension Agents, land managers, turf professionals, etc.).

Potential Topics: A range of acceptable topics include, but are not limited to: a) identification and biology of a weed species; b) description of a non-chemical weed management technique; c) weed species shifts; d) impact of climate change on weed species; e) utility of cover crops for weed management; f) unreported herbicide resistance; g) new laboratory or field research methods in weed science; h) ecological impacts of weed management programs; i) toxicological effects of herbicides; j) weed management techniques for organic or sustainable production systems; or k) integrated weed management techniques. Reports summarizing standard herbicide trials are not acceptable.

Format: The submission needs to be an original document, content not used elsewhere, and entirely written by the graduate student (although the student's advisor can provide assistance in terms of reviewing the document/suggesting revisions; however no other assistance is permitted). The submission could be an outcome of the graduate student's research efforts or review of the literature. Paper length should be up to two (2) pages of text, double-spaced, plus any images/figures/tables the author wishes to include, at a maximum of three (3) total pages. The text should be in 12-point Times New Roman and 1-inch margins on all sides. Any images used should be original; if external materials are used, appropriate copyright laws should be abided by or permission to use from authors should be provided. The submission should be written in a style appropriate for the intended audience of practitioners.

Submission: Students submit by email to the Graduate Student Writing Contest Chair by October 1. *Only one entry per student is allowed.*

Awards: There will be separate awards for MS and PhD students. Up to two awards (1st and 2nd) will be awarded for both MS and PhD divisions. Awards will be presented at the annual meeting in January. Monetary awards will be set yearly by the Endowment Fund committee, with suggested amounts being \$200, and \$100, for 1st and 2nd, respectively. The judging committee may offer recognition for Honorable Mention at their discretion.

Judging: The committee will be composed of a chair plus four committee members. The chair and committee members will be named by the NEWSS president by March 1 each year, and will

include at least two members of the Endowment Committee. The committee will serve until the end of the upcoming annual meeting.

Submissions will be judged based on writing skill, originality/creativity, technical accuracy, thoroughness of the topic, and relevance to the Northeast, with each component counting for 20 points.

The original submission will be judged for the contest. The judging committee will provide students with suggestions to improve their submission by November 1. Revised submissions are due by November 15 to be eligible for awards and publication (see below).

Publication: The NEWSS intends to post selected revised submissions on its website following the annual meeting and make them available to the public. Authors are free to use their submissions in other formats after they are posted to the NEWSS website. Submissions posted to the NEWSS website can be considered a reviewed outreach publication for a student's resume.

NEWSS Graduate Student Writing Contest Submission Form

Author: _____

Title of submission: _____

Degree program (circle one): MS PhD

Have you completed the degree (circle one): No Yes

If yes, list the completion date: _____

College/University: _____

Advisor: _____

With my signature, I permit NEWSS to post my submission, acknowledging my authorship, on the society's website or use the submission in other society activities

Signature _____

Print name: _____

Rules for the NEWSS Graduate Student Writing Contest Judging Committee

- 1) The committee will be composed of a chair plus four committee members. The chair and committee members will be named by the NEWSS president by March 1 each year and include at least two (2) members of the Endowment Committee. The committee will serve until the end of the upcoming annual meeting.
- 2) The contest rules and call for submissions will be included in the spring/summer edition of the NEWSS newsletter as well as posted on the NEWSS website.
- 3) Submissions must be emailed by the submitting student to the committee chair by October 1.
- 4) The committee chair will email all submissions to the committee members by October 5.
- 5) Committee members will return their scoring sheet to the committee chair by November 1.
- 6) If asked, revised submissions are due back to the committee chair by November 15.

Student name: _____

Degree program: MS PhD

University: _____

Advisor: _____

Writing skill (grammar, spelling, clarity) (20 points) _____

Originality/Creativity (20 points) _____

Technical accuracy (20 points) _____

Thoroughness of the topic (20 points) _____

Relevance to the Northeast (20 points) _____

Total score: _____

- 6) Awards will be presented at the annual meeting.