

Name: Ontario Weed Committee (OWC)**Title:** Terms of reference (Revised, October 29, 2021)**Review:**

- The terms of reference will be reviewed at the end of the OWC chair's term. Revisions can be made throughout the Chair's term based on feedback from the OWC.

Goals: The Ontario Weed Committee strives to provide a venue for people with an interest in weed management to interact, share ideas and work towards improving the management of detrimental weedy plants in Ontario.

Objectives of the Ontario Weed Committee:

1. To identify gaps in management solutions for weedy plants that negatively affect Ontarians; to compile and publish this list annually (Summer meeting).
2. To compile and publish confirmed populations of herbicide resistant weeds in Ontario; to nudge Ontario agriculture towards adoption of integrated management practices that reduce the risk of selecting for herbicide resistant weeds (Summer meeting).
3. To review the content and layout of the OMAFRA Guide to Weed Control (Publication 75). To provide constructive feedback and support that will improve the quality of this resource and ensure that it is available to Ontarians by January of each year (Fall meeting).
4. To showcase weed management research initiatives in Ontario (Summer and Fall meeting).

Membership:

The Ontario Weed Committee is made up of individuals who are involved in weed management at some level, be it as a primary producer, researcher, agronomist, commodity organization or registrant. The current philosophy of the Ontario Weed Committee is that if you have taken the time out of your schedule to participate, that you have a vote on any resolutions at a meeting. Resolutions can be voted on through online polling tools (e.g. doodle, poll everywhere) to avoid in-person influencing that can occur during face to face meetings or by ballot (which ever method is easiest or will gain the highest rate of voter turnout).

Accountability (Ontario Weed Committee elected positions):

- Chair: Mike Cowbrough (Term Ends: November 2021)

- 1st Vice Chair: Vacant
 - Nomination – Leanne Frietag (ClimateView)
- 2nd Vice Chair: Vacant
 - Nomination – Marijke Vanderlaan (Syngenta)
- Communications: Vacant
 - Nomination – Mike Cowbrough (OMAFRA)
- Treasurer: Kristen Obeid (Term Ends: November 2021)

Election of OWC positions:

Each position is elected for a 3-year term, and a maximum of 2 terms (6 years) can be served. Nominations for the 3 elected positions will be solicited during the summer meeting and then voted on through on-line polling (e.g. doodle). Elected positions will be announced prior to the fall meeting

Role of elected OWC positions:

Chair:

- Identifies topics that need to be communicated and/or resolved at each meeting, compiles and distributes the agenda to committee members.
- Provides support for sub-committee members to accomplish their objectives.
- Will respond to any correspondence addressed to the committee.

1st Vice Chair:

- Supports the Chair in their activities and serves as backup Chair. Assumes the Chair position after the current Chair's term ends.

2nd Vice Chair:

- Supports the 1st Vice Chair and Chair in their activities. Serves as backup to the 1st Vice Chair. Assumes the 1st Vice Chair position after the current 1st Vice Chair's term ends.

Communications:

- Compiles meeting minutes and records committee members in attendance.
- Provides an official document to appropriate members that details contributions made to the committee over the calendar year.
- Compiles all annual reports submitted by the OWC Chair and sub-committee chairs into one document known as the "Ontario Weed Committee Record of Activities – 20__".

Treasurer:

- Coordinate debits and deposits into the Ontario Weed Committee's bank account.
- Provide an annual summary of income and expenses that is included in the "Ontario Weed Committee Record of Activities – 20__".
- Administer any funding that becomes available to the Ontario Weed Committee.
- Provide monies to the Ontario Agriculture College's "Weed's Team" at a funding goal level of \$1,000.

Meetings/Events:

Two meetings will be held each calendar year:

- The first will be held at one of the public research stations (Elora, Harrow, Huron Park, Ridgetown, Simcoe or Woodstock) **during the 2nd Wednesday of July**. The purpose of this meeting is to:
 1. View select research trials conducted on the host research station.
 2. To identify gaps in management solutions for weedy plants that negatively affect Ontarians.
 3. To provide a progress update on key initiatives being taken on by the committee.
 4. To prompt registrants to identify any new additions or revisions to the Pub 75A and 75B editors (so that the process of updating the guide can begin).
- The second meeting (aka: fall meeting) will be held the **first Wednesday of November**, which should be the day after the Ontario Pest Management Conference. The purpose of this meeting is to:
 1. Review the draft layout of the Guide to Weed Control (Pub 75A, Pub 75B)
 2. Provide an annual summary of OWC activities and deliverables
 3. State goals for the upcoming field season

Process and timelines for submitting and publishing new/revised information in the Guide to Weed Control

Stated goal: To have this resource in circulation so that Ontarians have access to it well before the growing season.

Since the content of the Guide to Weed Control is being migrated to a digital system for the 2022 growing season, the process for submissions will change. At this time, editors are reviewing the process to determine the best way to serve clients.

Background: Historically, the mandate or terms of reference for the Ontario Weed Committee were defined by the Ontario Agricultural Services Co-ordinating Committee (OASCC). The last record for the Ontario Weed Committee's terms of reference were in 2001 where the stated objectives were:

1. To establish priorities for pest management research and service programs for broad issues across commodities.
2. To assess the requirements for pest management research and services.
3. To assess progress in pest management research.
4. To provide the OASCC with information detailing the needs for pest management research and services, providing where possible data re: cost-benefit analyses assessment of resources (personnel, facilities, financial) most suitable location for investigations.
5. To provide a forum for agri-business and grower associations to communicate pest management issues and priorities.

In 2008, the OASCC structure was discontinued and replaced with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Research Advisory Network (ORAN). The formation of the OMAFRA Research Advisory Network eliminated the requirement of weed management research priorities to be identified and reported by the Ontario Weed Committee. The identification of pest management priorities in the OMAFRA Research Advisory Network is captured under the "Production Systems (Animals and Plants)" theme. Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, and Grain Farmers of Ontario, play a central role in establishing research priorities under this theme in addition to the "Theme Advisory Group" (TAG) which consists of OMAFRA directors, unidentified OMAFRA and University of Guelph staff.

Purpose of this document: The formation of the OMAFRA Research Advisory Network eliminated the formal need to have the Ontario Weed Committee (OWC). Yet traditional, the OWC has been valued as a venue for those involved in weed management to network, discuss issues and review technical resources such as the OMAFRA Guide to Weed Control. However, agricultural professionals are busy and don't need more meetings for the sake of having meetings. This document is intended to provide a mandate for the OWC that will make it a committee that people want to be involved with and that provides value to Ontario agriculture.