

### **Weed Team for Prospective Students:**

The goal of the weed judging contest preparations is to provide the students with a fundamental understanding as well as hands-on training on the basics of weed identification and management. This activity is highly relevant to students majoring in agronomy, turf, horticulture, forestry, rangeland science, and for anyone who is interested in vegetation identification and management.

Participation in the weed judging contest preparations will provide excellent professional training, particularly for those who are interested in becoming a field agronomist, farm manager, agrochemical company representative, crop consultant, distributor, custom applicator, county agent, or extension specialist. The students will receive an opportunity to participate in a regional contest (Southern Weed Science Society-Weed Contest) among several universities in the southern US. This contest has long been very popular in the region and several recruiters often use this as a platform to identify potential employees.

What's more, the entire training is offered as a 3-credit hour undergraduate/graduate stacked course [SCSC 453/653 Essentials for Weed Systematic Identification and Management in Agronomy] during a 10-week period in summer starting the last week of May and ending in the first week of August.

The learning outcomes of the course include: a) Develop a mastery on fundamentals of weed systematics and able to identify some of the common weeds infesting agricultural and other systems; b) Recognize common herbicide symptoms on major agronomic crops and weeds; c) Perform calculations pertaining to herbicide applications using simple methods; d) Calibrate sprayers for different field and application conditions; and e) Recognize common field problems encountered by growers and provide practical solutions.

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