

Profile of Carol Rolando

2011 recipient of the CAWS Early Career Weed Scientist Travel Award

Carol Rolando currently works at Scion where she is employed as a pest management scientist. Her research covers a diversity of projects in forest health and biosecurity for New Zealand's plantation forests and includes weeds research for plantation forestry. Prior to joining Scion Carol worked in South Africa for 9 years where she was involved in developing regional vegetation management standards for pines in the summer rainfall region of South Africa.

Research for plantation forest weed control in New Zealand is currently driven by the challenges posed by environmental certification criteria on herbicide use in forests. Major forest environmental certification schemes, such as that administered by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), advocate a move towards pesticide free pest management in plantation forests. Two of the main herbicides used by the New Zealand forest industry already have restricted use on FSC certified land with the potential they will be prohibited in years to come. Weed research at Scion centres on finding alternative herbicides to those that may be prohibited as well as developing non-chemical weed control methods using cultural and biological means. Carol will be presenting some of the work she is involved with at the International Forest Vegetation Management Conference held in Chile in November. She has been awarded the Council of Australasian Weed Societies Early Career Weed Scientist Travel Award to assist with her travel and conference costs.

