

Biography of John D. Byrd, Jr.

John D. Byrd, Jr. was born near Hartsville, SC and reared on a small cotton and tobacco farm. He learned the importance of integrated weed control as a youngster as his father relied almost exclusively on mechanical weed control; a hoe for weed control in cotton and tobacco. He received his B. S. in Agronomy at Clemson University in 1983, then M. S. and Ph. D. degrees in Weed Science at North Carolina State University in 1986 and 1989, respectively. His real education started in 1989 when he started as Extension Weed Specialist at Mississippi State University. He was promoted to Extension/Research Professor in 1998. In Mississippi, he has been responsible for extension weed control recommendations for all agronomic and horticultural crops and noncrop areas. His research and extension efforts currently focus toward rights of way, forage crops, and terrestrial invasive weeds of natural areas. He currently has 5 graduate students and has served on committees of 83 additional students.

He has served as the President of the Mississippi Weed Science Society and the National Roadside Vegetation Management Association, on the Board of Directors of the Southern Weed Science Society and Southern Weed Science Society Endowment Foundation.

He has received several awards, including the Mississippi Weed Science Society Education, Research, and Distinguished Service Awards, Mississippi State University Alumni Association Service Award, Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, and the Southern Weed Science Society Outstanding Young Weed Scientist Award.

He has more authored or co-authored than 81 Extension publications, 178 abstracts, 29 refereed journal articles, and 1 book chapter.

For fun, he enjoys deer and cat hunting: old John Deere and Caterpillar farm and construction machinery.