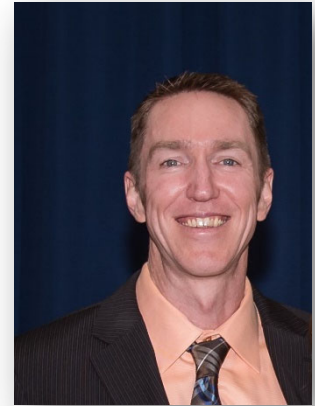


## Ryan Thum, PhD

Associate Research Professor  
Plant Sciences & Plant Pathology  
Montana State University

### Bio:

Dr. Ryan A Thum received his BS from Florida State University and his PhD from Dartmouth College. His research program focuses on the ecological genetics of invasive aquatic plants, with specific interest in the role that cryptic genetic diversity plays in invasiveness and herbicide response. He is currently an Associate Research Professor of Genetics at Montana State University's Plant Sciences & Plant Pathology Department.



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## Ryan Wersal, PhD

Assistant Professor  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Minnesota State University Mankato

### Bio:

Dr. Ryan Wersal is an Assistant Professor of Aquatic Plant Ecology in the Department of Biological Sciences at Minnesota State University Mankato. He teaches courses in General Ecology, Lake Ecology, Wetlands, and Weed Science. Ryan's research focuses on understanding the seasonal life history characteristics and phenology of aquatic plants. These data are used to exploit weak points in order to improve management of problematic species. Basic research is conducted to understand biomass, carbohydrate, and nutrient resource allocation patterns. Management strategies are developed using controlled growth studies whereby different techniques are evaluated to control aquatic plants in order to develop better use patterns for existing methods and to develop new products for use in aquatic plant management. A third research focus utilizes spatial technologies to design and implement large-scale quantitative lake assessment programs in Minnesota.

