New assistant professor joins UF/IFAS GCREC

By Dr. Andrew W. MacRae, Assistant Professor – Weed Science, UF/IFAS, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, Balm, FL,

I’m grateful for this opportunity to introduce myself and would like to tell a little bit about my background. I was born in Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada. I grew up in a farming community consisting of beef, dairy, and low bush blueberry farms. I completed my undergraduate work at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College attaining a B.S. in Agriculture (Pest Management). I worked for the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing as a weed science research assistant in 1996 and then as the interim weed science technician in 1997 and 1998 with responsibilities for research and extension for all agronomic and horticultural crops grown in Nova Scotia.

In 1998 I enrolled at North Carolina State University where I attained my M.S. and PhD. in Horticulture (Weed Science). While in North Carolina I conducted research and provided extension information in many horticultural crops including tree fruits and nuts, small fruits, and vegetables. In 2005 I was employed as a Post Doctoral Research Associate with the University of Georgia where I conducted research and provided extension information in vegetables, cotton, and small grains. While in North Carolina and Georgia I conducted research on Methyl Bromide alternatives, crop tolerance and efficacy of herbicides, and crop weed interactions. In my eleven year career I have conducted field research experiments with 43 crops and have participated in the conduct of 178 IR-4 field residue trials.

I was hired on September 14th as the weed scientist at the GCREC with responsibilities in research and extension for vegetables, small fruits, and field grown ornamentals. My research will focus on weed management aspects as they relate to the use of methyl bromide alternatives, weed efficacy and crop tolerance with new and currently registered herbicides, and weed/crop interactions. My extension program will focus on providing local and statewide commodity stakeholders with new means to manage existing and emerging weed populations. I look forward to meeting all those involved in Florida agriculture and to the development of partnerships with the commodity grower associations that will help direct my weed science program to provide solutions for those weed management problems that greatly affect the stakeholders.