

## Akshit Puri



I am a PhD student in the Soil Science program and this is my 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year as a Teaching Assistant (TA) for this course. I completed my MSc degree in Soil Science from UBC in 2015 and prior to that my Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering from Punjab Agricultural University, India in 2013.

My PhD research project focuses on describing the role of nitrogen-fixing bacteria in providing nitrogen nutrition to boreal forest trees. Specifically, I am working with nitrogen-fixing bacteria isolated from internal tissues of lodgepole pine and hybrid white spruce trees growing at sites with different nutritional status in the Central Interior British Columbia.

I feel that soil is the main source of nutrients for plants and optimum use of nitrogen-fixing and plant-growth-promoting bacteria can reduce the nutrient stress on soils, eradicating the extensive use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture and forest ecosystems. If you would like to know more about me and my research, please visit my website: [akshitpuri.wordpress.com](http://akshitpuri.wordpress.com)

I teach the Tuesday 10am – 12noon lab and my office hours are every Tuesday 12noon–1pm. Please don't hesitate to drop by if you need any help related to this course or want to chat about soils.