

CHECK OUT FIELDS & PASTURES FOR WEED PROBLEMS



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Late summer, fall and harvest are good times to check out where you may have a problem with specific weeds or where a new weed is invading or possibly even herbicide resistance is developing. By identifying the weed, extent of any infestations and locations of weed problems, you will have a better strategy for managing these weeds in the future, maybe even this fall. Marestalk or maybe more specifically, glyphosate-resistant marestalk has become a major problem in Nebraska. In traveling around southeast Nebraska, marestalk control and weed control in general appears to be much better overall this summer compared to previous years. Once marestalk bolts from the rosette state it is hard to control. It can emerge in the fall, so keep an eye out for it. Fall control of winter annuals should improve field conditions next spring for planting and weed control in next year's crop. Another very tough weed to control is field horsetail or scouring rush (*Equisetum*). This is the weed that looks like a small bamboo plant and it grows in wet areas, especially along railroad right-of-ways and ditches. Unfortunately, it many times is invading more into fields and is very tough to control. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has conducted research in controlling this weed. They found Chlorsulfuron, labeled as Glean for use in wheat, or as Telar for use in non-crop areas, was very effective at controlling scouring rush for more than one year when it was applied at 3 oz /A. Chlorsulfuron has a long soil residual and can cause significant injury to corn and soybean. The maximum use rate in wheat is 0.33 oz/A (approximately 10 times less than what was applied in noncrop areas, and the rotation interval to corn or soybean is 24 months. If chlorsulfuron were used to control a scouring rush patch that is expanding from a non-crop area into a corn or soybean field, individuals should only consider planting an IR-corn or STS soybean in the treated area in the subsequent 3-5 years, and may still suffer some crop injury from herbicide carryover.

I have discussed palmer amaranth in previous articles. While I have not seen major infestations of it in the area, I know there are fields in southeast Nebraska that have it. The key is minimizing seed production and the spread of palmer amaranth seed, even if it requires hand-walking fields. The best method of controlling these resistant weeds is to limit their seed production by alternating herbicides, combining herbicides with glyphosate in treating weed problems or even hand-walking fields. It is important to recognize fields that have herbicide-resistant weeds so you can prevent them from producing seed.

Other weeds that are showing up in southeast Nebraska and could cause problems include: phragmites, common teasel and cutleaf teasel and poison hemlock. Phragmites can be found growing along some of the wet ditches and wetland areas in southeast Nebraska. Teasel can be found in non-cropped areas and in pastures or CRP. It is a problem in the neighboring states Kansas and Missouri. I recently saw some growing along a highway in Otoe County. This spring poison hemlock was growing in ditches and waste areas over much of southeast Nebraska. It can germinate in the fall and will begin growing. If you can treat poison hemlock this fall or early spring when it is small in the rosette stage it should be much easier to kill than when it bolts and is a much larger plant to treat. If you have questions about any of these weeds or need assistance in identifying a weed, feel free to contact me at the Nemaha County Extension office at 402-274-4755 or (402) 274-9639 (cell).

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