

EARLY-SEASON WEED CONTROL IS IMPORTANT FOR CROPS, PASTURES, AND LAWNS!



1824 N St, Ste 102 • Auburn NE 68305
402-274-4755 • www.nemaha.unl.edu

While the winter of 2021-2022 was very dry, we have received some rain and warmer temperatures, so weeds are beginning to grow. If fields weren't sprayed last fall for control of winter annuals, these weeds are the first to begin growing. Keep an eye out for weeds beginning to grow in your crop fields. Weed control is always important in the spring, especially where there were previous issues with marehail or other winter annuals. With the dry fall cover crops that were planted had limited growth and some fields had less than ideal stands. Cover crops, especially cereal rye has been an excellent strategy for suppression of marehail. It is important to control marehail early in the spring, prior to the plant bolting (shooting a stem). It will really be challenging controlling marehail if it bolts and is glyphosate-resistant, which most of it is. Check the 2021 or 2022 University of Nebraska Weed Management Guide for best herbicides to use for control with your weed problems. In pastures, if you were not able to control weeds last fall, check your pastures for musk thistle. If we receive some rain and it is too wet to do field work, you still may be able to spray your pastures. The early season treatment of musk thistles in particular is critical for effective control. Musk thistle is a noxious weed in Nebraska, meaning it is unlawful to let it grow on your property without attempting to control it. The best time for controlling musk thistle is when it is just starting to grow, in the rosette stage. Once thistles start to bolt or shoot up a stem or stalk, it is much more difficult to control them. There are several herbicides that work well on musk thistle and other pasture weeds, such as: 2,4-D ester, 2,4-D ester plus Dicamba, Grazon P&D, Transline, Redeem R&P and Overdrive. Another weed we have had issues with the past few years in southeast Nebraska is poison hemlock. I just saw some poison hemlock in the rosette stage a couple of weeks ago. I have not seen too much of it yet, but it is key to controlling this weed as it can cause livestock deaths.

Finally, some of us may have weeds in our lawns or around our farmsteads. Walking around Auburn last week I saw more of the winter annuals and biennial weeds emerging in several lawns. Weeds such as henbit, speedwell, chickweed were starting to grow, and I even saw some dandelions blooming. You have time to control these weeds now and in the next few weeks for the warm-season weeds. Information on broadleaf weed control in home lawns can be found online at: <https://turf.unl.edu/NebGuides/BDLVcontrol2011b.pdf>. Information on crabgrass control can be found online at: <https://turf.unl.edu/NebGuides/Crabgrasscontrolhomelawn2010b.pdf>. If you have other questions, feel free to contact me at the Nemaha County Extension office at (402) 274-4755, (402) 274-9639 or glesoing2@unl.edu.

Gary Lesoing
Extension Educator
Nemaha County
April 2022