

**NDSU**WILLISTON  
RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER

# Ag Alert

Northwest North Dakota

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Divide County Crops Meeting      Wednesday, September 21**

The Divide County Crop Improvement Association and NDSU Extension will host a crops meeting at the Crosby Community Center from 5:30 to 8:00 pm September 21. The event is free and a hamburger supper will be served. Come meet Brandon Biwer, new Divide County Ag Agent, and Dr. Prashant Jha, Montana State University weed scientist, who will share his work on fall vs. spring herbicide application for crop safety and weed control in pulses and Round-up resistant kochia in Montana.

### **National Hard Spring Wheat Show    February 7-9, 2017**

Save the date for the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show now! This event will be held in Williston February 7-9 with a bread fair for students on the 7<sup>th</sup> and educational lectures and workshops for farmers and agronomists on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

## OPTIMIZE TIMING OF FALL-APPLIED GLYPHOSATE

For optimum timing of fall-applied glyphosate, remember that glyphosate must contact living tissue (green leaves) of weeds to be effective and has no residual activity. If spraying a field that was harvested at the end of July or in early August, check the field before spraying to see that weeds are indeed up and growing before heading out with the sprayer if using glyphosate. If the field was recently harvested, late August to mid-September, and you used a desiccant, your optimum timing with glyphosate will likely be later than in a field harvested/ desiccated in early August.

Also check the weather forecast! Northwest ND had its first frost last week but it looks like we will be warm this coming week with average to slightly above average temperatures through the end of September. If warm temperatures stay, plan to spray towards the end of this month or into the first and second weeks of October. Much of northwest ND received some if not a lot (0.9" in Williston, 1.8" in Watford City) of rain on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Moisture plus warm days will stimulate weed germination and growth and will allow you to maximize the number of weeds killed if you wait to spray until the last week of September or into October.

## FALL HORSEWEED CONTROL

We saw a lot of horseweed (also called marestail) going to seed in pea and lentil fields this year. Spraying horseweed while it is in the rosette stage in the fall results in better control than spraying it in the spring. Horseweed is very difficult to control after it

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bolts (sends up a flowering stalk), so plan to target rosettes this fall if horseweed was a problem in your fields. To maximize horseweed control, spray rosettes when they are 2" or bigger in diameter, as shown in **Picture 1**. If your horseweed looks more like **Picture 2** and is mostly small seedlings < 1" across, then you should wait until the end of September or into October to spray. Very small seedlings don't have much surface area for herbicides to contact, so waiting until there are more leaves present will aid in control.

What to use? Glyphosate alone is not a great choice for controlling horseweed. Additionally, a case of glyphosate-resistant horseweed was confirmed this year in eastern Montana, so using glyphosate alone is not recommended. Dicamba + glyphosate is a good choice for horseweed control but beware of the 4-month rotation restriction on dicamba ahead of pulse crops, canola, and flax. **Remember that the 4-month restriction does not include months the soil is frozen!** So, if you spray dicamba + glyphosate in early October, the ground freezes in November and then thaws in March, you still have to wait 3 months before planting a sensitive crop. If we have a wet spring, a late May planting date may be safe but planting in April risks sensitive crop injury. If you want to avoid the rotation restriction on dicamba, another option is 2,4-D + glyphosate. 2,4-D does a good job controlling horseweed (though not as good as dicamba) but has the benefit of only a 1-month restriction for most crops.

A third option for horseweed control is Sharpen (saflufenacil). Sharpen + AMS + MSO is very effective on horseweed and provides excellent control. If you want a broad-spectrum and horseweed-focused fall burndown, combining Sharpen + 2,4-D + glyphosate is an option. The two major drawbacks to Sharpen are cost (Sharpen is much more expensive than 2,4-D) and rotation restrictions at higher rates. At the 2 oz rate, there is a 5-month restriction ahead of canola and flax but only 1 to 2 months ahead of pea and lentil.



Picture 1. Horseweed rosettes approximately 2-4" in diameter. Credit Brian Jenks.



Picture 2. Very small horseweed seedlings. Credit Brian Jenks.



Horseweed in a pea field at the Williston Research Extension Center in July 2016. Credit Clair Keene.



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## FALL NARROW-LEAVED HAWK'S BEARD CONTROL

Like horseweed, narrow-leaved hawk's beard (NLHB) is easier to control in the fall than in the spring. Many growers in Divide and Williams Counties called to ask about NLHB this summer saying it was a weed they did not recognize but were finding along roadways and areas disturbed by pipeline installation.

NLHB can be controlled with glyphosate in the fall, but don't cut rates. As discussed previously, determining the size of seedlings is critical to maximizing control of this weed with fall herbicide application. Rosettes should be 2" in diameter or larger to maximize control. Other herbicide options for enhancing NLHB control include glyphosate + Express (tribenuron), glyphosate + 2,4-D, and glyphosate + Panoflex (tribenuron + thifensulfuron). None of these options has a long rotation restriction, but always read the label to check if the crop you want to plant may be sensitive to carry-over.

**Photos on right. Top:** emerging NLHB seedlings; **Center:** NLHB rosettes approximately 1" in diameter; **Bottom:** NLHB rosettes approximately 2" in diameter. All three photos were taken on September 16 in the same field at the Williston Research Extension Center. For herbicide application purposes, waiting 2 weeks is recommended before spraying this field. This time will allow seedlings and small rosettes in the top and center photos to grow large enough to maximize control. **Photo on left.** Flowering NLHB in July 2016. All photos this page taken by Clair Keene.

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Thank you to Dr. Brian Jenks of the North Central Research Extension Center in Minot for his input on this Ag Alert.

