

Palmer Amaranth Weed Watch: Raising Awareness in the Logan County Area

Public Value Statement

Palmer amaranth education promotes proactive control to reduce economic losses to North Dakota.

The Situation

Palmer amaranth aggressively competes with row crops, with reported yield losses as great as 91 percent in corn (Massinga et al. 2012) and 78 percent in soybeans (Bensch et al. 2003) in Kansas. Some Palmer amaranth biotypes are resistant to six unique herbicide sites of action; some biotypes are cross-tolerant to multiple sites of action. Early identification of Palmer amaranth is vital to reduce economic losses in North Dakota.

Extension Response

A program team consisting of NDSU Extension specialists and agents traveled to Nebraska to learn Palmer amaranth identification and management in grower fields from University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension staff, local agronomists and farmers.

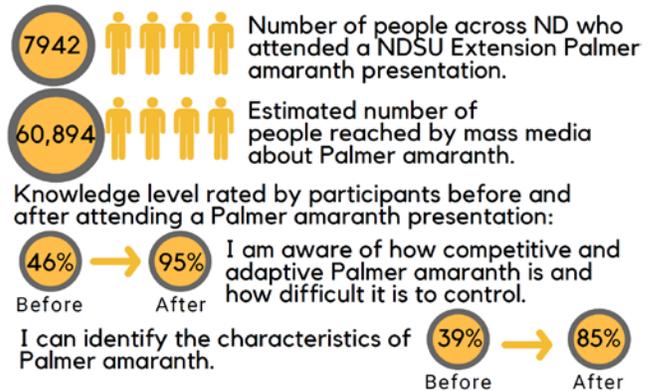
The program team developed teaching materials, including PowerPoint presentations, problem-based learning scenarios and other activities and resources, based on their experiences gained on the Nebraska tour. Teaching materials were made available for all NDSU Extension staff to use for educational events.

From the materials that were developed by the team that traveled to Nebraska, Extension agent Sheldon Gerhardt delivered a problem-based learning exercise titled “The Case of the Mysterious Undead Pigweeds” in Logan and Emmons counties during pesticide training.

When the weed was confirmed in McIntosh County, agents from Dickey, LaMoure, Logan, and McIntosh counties hosted a scouting informational meeting in Kulm where locals could view plants that has been pulled and learn more about the weed.

Impacts

Presentations taught by Extension specialists and agents during the 2017-18 meeting season raised awareness of the potential economic impact of Palmer amaranth to North Dakota and how to identify the weed. Statewide impacts included:



146 producers attended the problem-based learning activity in Logan and Emmons counties. They rated the activity an 8 out of 10 with 10 being excellent and 1 being very poor. 80 people attended the scouting meeting in Kulm.

Feedback

Comments from the problem-based learning:

“Makes you think outside the box and address possible upcoming problems.”

“It’s a problem that anyone could face any day during the growing season.”

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Non-Extension Collaborators

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