Controlling Horseweed (Marestail)

HORSEWEED (A.K.A. MARESTAIL) is an annual weed that can follow a winter or summer annual life cycle. While the majority of horseweed emerges in the fall, it can also emerge in the spring and summer. Unlike other winter annuals horseweed does not mature until late summer, allowing for greater competition with crops compared with other winter annual weeds. Horseweed plants start out as a rosette, generally bolt in April/May, flower in July, and set and disperse seed from August to October. Each plant can produce up to 200,000 seeds that travel long distances in the wind. Up to 86% of seeds produced can germinate right off the plant. Of fall emerging seedlings 59 to 91% can survive the winter, causing problems in the next spring's crop.

HORSEWEED MANAGEMENT

Horseweed can be a problem in no-till or reduced tillage production systems. Therefore, herbicides are a major component for horseweed management. Many corn herbicides (e.g., atrazine and growth regulators) are very effective in controlling horseweed; as a result horseweed is generally not a problem in corn. However, control in soybeans can be difficult, especially with several populations of horseweed resistant to ALS-inhibiting herbicides in Michigan. Also there are concerns of glyphosate-resistant horseweed since there have been populations confirmed in Indiana and Ohio. To effectively manage horseweed it is important to control horseweed prior to soybean planting. This can be done with fall or early-spring herbicide applications. Fall applications will only control emerged horseweed, unless a residual herbicide is included. If soybeans are planted early in the season a residual herbicide should also be used to control later-emerging horseweed. Control of horseweed is more effective when plants are in the rosette stage or less than 2 inches tall.

BURNDOWN[a] (SOYBEANS)

CONTROL OF EMERGED HORSEWEED (ROSETTE STAGE ONLY)

ALL POPULATIONS (INCLUDING SUSPECTED ALS- AND GLYPHOSATE-RESISTANT POPULATIONS)

Herbicide Treatment[b]	Effectiveness
2,4-D ester (0.5 lb ai)[c,d]	**Good-Excel.**
glyphosate + 2,4-D ester (0.5 lb ai)[c,d]	**Good-Excel.**
Sencor + 2,4-D ester (0.5 lb ai)[c]	**Good-Excel.**
Sencor + Gramoxone	**Good**

CONTROL OF EMERGED HORSEWEED ROSETTE UP TO 6 INCHES

ALL POPULATIONS (INCLUDING SUSPECTED ALS- AND GLYPHOSATE-RESISTANT POPULATIONS)

Herbicide Treatment[b]	Effectiveness
glyphosate (0.75 lb ae) + 2,4-D + FirstRate[c]	**Good-Excel.**
glyphosate (0.75 lb ae) + 2,4-D + Canopy XL[c]	**Good-Excel.**
glyphosate (0.75 lb ae) + 2,4-D + Gangster[c]	**Good-Excel.**
glyphosate (0.75 lb ae) + 2,4-D ester[c,d]	**Good**
Sencor + Gramoxone Max + 2,4-D ester[c]	**Good**

NON-RESISTANT POPULATIONS (INCLUDING ABOVE TREATMENTS)

Herbicide Treatment[b]	Effectiveness
glyphosate (0.75 lb ae)[c,d]	**Good-Excel.**
glyphosate (0.75 lb ae) + FirstRate	**Good-Excel.**
glyphosate (0.75 lb ae) + Canopy XL	**Good-Excel.**
glyphosate (0.75 lb ae) + Gangster	**Good-Excel.**

CONTROL OF EMERGED HORSEWEED > 6 INCHES

Herbicide Treatment[b]	Effectiveness
glyphosate (1.5 lb ae) + 2,4-D + FirstRate[c]	Fair-**Good**
glyphosate (1.5 lb ae) + 2,4-D + Canopy XL[c]	Fair-**Good**
glyphosate (1.5 lb ae) + 2,4-D + Gangster[c]	Fair-**Good**

RESIDUAL HORSEWEED CONTROL (SOYBEANS)

HERBICIDES WITH ACTIVITY ON NON-EMERGED HORSEWEED

Herbicide[b]	Effectiveness
ALS- AND GLYPHOSATE-RESISTANT POPULATIONS	
Sencor, Valor, and Gangster	**Good**
NON-ALS-RESISTANT POPULATIONS	
Canopy XL, FirstRate, and Python	**Good**

POST HORSEWEED CONTROL (SOYBEANS)

Herbicide[b]	Effectiveness
ALS-RESISTANT POPULATIONS	
glyphosate (0.75 lb ae)[d]	**Excellent**
GLYPHOSATE-RESISTANT POPULATIONS	
Classic and FirstRate	**Good**

[a] Applications should be made to control all horseweed prior to planting.
[b] Refer to herbicide labels for application rates and additives.
[c] 7 day restriction prior to planting soybeans.
[d] This treatment can be used prior to planting corn.

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