

David G. Hallauer
Meadowlark Extension District Agent
Crops & Soils/Horticulture

Fall Applied Herbicides – Corn

Harvest is a time of reflection on the year with an eye towards the next. Did we have enough nitrogen? Was our population sufficient? Did our weed control program work?

If you answered no to the weed control question, the fall application window for winter annual broadleaf weeds and grasses ahead of corn is upon us. According to KSU Weed Scientist Dr. Curtis Thompson, fall applications in late October/November can greatly assist in the control of difficult winter annuals (marestail and henbit...) and should be considered when spring-applied preplant weed control hasn't been adequate.

If residual weed control is desired, he notes that atrazine is still an effective and economical choice – as long as you stick with corn or sorghum! – with labels in the fall any time before December 31 to non-frozen soils. One half to two pounds (maximum) per acre of atrazine in the fall, tank mixed with 1 to 2 pints/acre of 2,4-D LV4 or 0.67 to 1.33 pints LV6, can give good burndown of winter annual broadleaf weeds -- such as henbit, pepperweed, field pansy, and marestail -- and small, non-tillered winter annual grasses. You can enhance some foliar activity with crop oil concentrate. At the higher rates, there should be enough residual to control early spring-germinating summer annual broadleaves like lambsquarters or Pennsylvania smartweed.

Marestail is an increasing problem meriting special attention. Fall-applied atrazine plus 2,4-D or dicamba have effectively controlled marestail rosettes, and should provide enough residual activity to kill marestail at germination in the spring. Sharpen can be effective, but should be tankmixed with 2,4-D, dicamba, atrazine, or glyphosate to prevent regrowth. Other residual herbicide options include ALS herbicides such as Autumn Super or Basis Blend. ALS-resistant marestail will survive these treatments if applied alone. For burndown, producers should mix in 2,4-D, dicamba, and/or glyphosate. Aim + 2,4-D or Rage D-Tech are additional herbicide options for fall application with only the 2,4-D component providing a very short residual.

For further information, check out the KSU Chemical Weed Control Guide available from your District Office. *Always* read and follow label directions!

Bush Honeysuckle – Additional Recommendations

Two weeks ago, I referenced chemical control efforts for invasive bush honeysuckle. As I discussed control programs with a reader, I realized that an update was in order. Please accept my apologies for missing the updated recommendations (from MF 3222 Economical Control of Bush Honeysuckle) last time, but I hope this is better – and more applicable! - late than never!

Chemical treatment is effective in combination with mechanical methods to control large areas of bush honeysuckle. Spot spraying with a 1 to 2 percent solution of glyphosate is effective — especially on regrowth from previously cut stems —carefully avoiding overspray on non-target species. To limit effects on other plants, consider spraying in late fall, when only bush honeysuckle bears green leaves and desirable native plants are dormant. Larger stands can be treated by applying a 25 percent solution of glyphosate to stems that have been cut at ground level. Application from late summer through the dormant season is effective. Cut-stump treatment with triclopyr is most effective in late winter. It is more effective at controlling large bush honeysuckles with stems that are larger in diameter. Picloram controls bush honeysuckle, but can result in unintentional tree kill, so apply with caution in wooded areas.