

Herbicide-resistant horseweed (marestalk) in Michigan

Keys to management in no-till soybean

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Horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*), also known as marestalk, is an annual weed that can follow a winter or summer annual life cycle. While horseweed can emerge in the fall, we have recently been observing more horseweed emergence from early spring through summer (March through August) in Michigan. 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 through October. These plants not only reduce soybean yield, but large mature plants may interfere with soybean harvest. 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 and 59 to 91% of fall emerging seedlings can survive the winter, causing problems in the next spring's crop.



Michigan no-till soybean field infested with horseweed

Herbicide resistance in horseweed:

Horseweed resistance to the ALS-inhibitors (Group 2), triazines (Group 5), and glyphosate (Group 9) have been identified in Michigan. However, horseweed **resistance to multiple herbicides** including, **glyphosate** and **ALS-inhibitors**, are common in Michigan. These multiple resistance profiles make it difficult to manage horseweed, since glyphosate will not control horseweed in the burndown application or postemergence in Roundup Ready soybean. If ALS-resistance is present the use of PRE or POST applications of Classic (*chlorimuron*), FirstRate (*cloransulam*), or other ALS-inhibitors will not effectively control horseweed. Horseweed management strategies need to rely heavily on effective burndown treatments that include 6 to 8 weeks of residual control from PRE herbicides, as well as, the use of soybeans with other herbicide-resistant traits for postemergence herbicide options.



Fall emerging horseweed

Spring/summer (June) emerging horseweed

Horseweed bolting in spring

Seedhead prior to seed dispersal

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Consider planting LibertyLink or LibertyLink GT27 soybean

LibertyLink and LibertyLink GT27 soybean can be one of the most effective strategies for managing high populations of horseweed. *Glufosinate* (Liberty, Interline, others) is the only effective postemergence herbicide option for control of multiple-resistant horseweed, without several restrictions. However, the following recommendations need to be followed:

- Effective burndown and residual herbicides outlined below will be needed for horseweed control prior to planting LibertyLink soybean.
- Apply Liberty (32-43 oz/A) POST prior to horseweed exceeding 6-inches in height. Ammonium sulfate (AMS) should always be included. Use the higher rate to control taller plants or plants that have escaped initial control. Follow with a second POST applications of Liberty as needed.

Remember glufosinate products can only be applied over-the-top of soybean that have the LibertyLink (glufosinate-resistant) trait.

What about Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybean?

Roundup Ready 2 Xtend (dicamba-resistant) soybean provides growers another option for multiple-resistant horseweed control. Emerged horseweed is effectively controlled by registered dicamba products used prior to or after planting Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybean. However, concerns with off-target dicamba movement to sensitive crops and species forces us to limit our recommendations to using dicamba for herbicide-resistant horseweed control in the burndown application (preplant or preemergence). Postemergence applications of dicamba may be used, but there are greater chances for off-target movement. There are several restrictions that need to be followed if applying dicamba in this system. From MSU research we have observed effective multiple-resistant horseweed control when these recommendations are followed.

- Tank-mix and apply XtendiMax, FeXapan (22 or 44 oz), or Engenia (12.8 oz) with an effective residual (PRE) herbicide prior to planting or emergence of Roundup Ready 2 Xtend (dicamba-resistant) soybean only. Mixtures of *two effective residual* active ingredients provide the most consistent horseweed control. Effective residual herbicides are outlined on the following page.

Restrictions and **additional precautions** for use of dicamba in Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybean are outlined in Table 2H of the MSU Weed Control Guide (E0434) and the label must be followed.

Steps for successful horseweed management in soybean

Step 1: Control emerged horseweed prior to planting!!

Tillage or effective burndown herbicide applications are the only two methods available to control emerged horseweed prior to planting soybean. For tillage to be effective it needs to be close to the time of planting, thoroughly mixing the top few inches of soil to uproot any existing horseweed plants. Vertical tillage tools are not effective. However, due to horseweed being mostly a problem in no-till or reduced till fields most growers will need to use effective burndown treatments for horseweed control. In some cases, in fields with historical horseweed problems two applications may be needed (fall followed by spring applications).

Effective burndown treatments (Fall):

- Best applied when horseweed is in the rosette stage, prior to 4-inches tall.
- Fall treatments should be used to control emerged horseweed, but a spring burndown treatment will still be needed. These treatments reduce variability from spring only treatments.
 - Use 2,4-D, dicamba, or Sharpen as the base herbicides in fall treatments to control emerged horseweed. Tank-mixtures with other herbicides (i.e., glyphosate) will be needed to control other winter annual and perennial weeds.



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Step 1: Control emerged horseweed prior to planting (*continued*)

Effective burndown treatments (Spring prior to soybean planting):

- Horseweed needs to be managed prior to planting.
- Preplant herbicide treatments should be applied when horseweed plants are less than 4-inches tall.
- The most consistent options for horseweed control have more than one effective herbicide site of action.

Options with one effective herbicide:

- 2,4-D ester (1 pt) + glyphosate + AMS (7 days or more prior to planting)
- Sharpen (1 oz) or Sharpen products (OpTill, OpTill PRO, Zidua PRO, or Verdict) + MSO + glyphosate + AMS
- Liberty (36 to 43 oz) + AMS
- XtendiMax, FeXapan (22 or 44 oz), or Engenia (12.8 oz) + glyphosate in **Roundup Ready 2 Xtend (dicamba-resistant) soybean only**. See restrictions.

Options with more than one effective herbicide:

- 2,4-D ester (1 pt) + Sharpen (1 oz) + glyphosate + MSO (7 days or more prior to planting)
- 2,4-D ester + Gramoxone + *metribuzin* (7 days or more prior to planting)
- Sharpen (1 oz) or Sharpen products (OpTill, OpTill PRO, Zidua PRO, or Verdict) + MSO + Liberty
- Liberty (32 to 43 oz) + *metribuzin*
- Gramoxone + *metribuzin* (at least 8 oz) + COC

Step 2: Include effective residual (PRE) herbicides with burndown treatment

- The use of effective residual herbicides with the burndown treatment is essential for horseweed control until the soybean canopy develops. Options with only one effective active ingredient provide more variability in residual control. Utilizing more than one effective active ingredient is more consistent.

Options with one effective herbicide:

- Group 5 herbicides: *metribuzin* (at least 8 oz) and *metribuzin* premixes (i.e., Boundary, Canopy, Moccasin MTZ+, Tripzin ZC) can be applied with any of the burndown treatments. Additional *metribuzin* may need to be added to premixes to increase the *metribuzin* rate to at least 8 oz/A. DO NOT exceed the recommended *metribuzin* rate for the soil type.
- Group 14 herbicides can be applied with any of the burndown treatments, except Sharpen (*saflufenacil*) products unless applied 14 days prior to planting soybean. Group 14 herbicides include:
 - Valor (*flumioxazin*) or *flumioxazin* products: Afforia, Envive, Fierce, Fierce XLT, Surveil, or Valor XLT
 - Spartan (*sulfentrazone*) or *sulfentrazone* products: Authority Assist/Elite/First/MAXX/Supreme/XL, BroadAxe XC, or Sonic
 - Sharpen (1.5 oz) can be applied, but only if applied 14 d prior to planting and soil O.M. >2%, see label.

Options with more than one effective herbicide:

- Best residual control of multiple-resistant horseweed will be from tank-mixtures or premixtures that contain two effective herbicides.
 - *Metribuzin* + Valor (*flumioxazin*)
 - Premixtures containing *metribuzin* + *flumioxazin*: Trivence, Fierce MTZ
 - *Metribuzin* + *sulfentrazone*
 - Premixtures containing *metribuzin* + *sulfentrazone*: Authority MTZ

