

## CROP ALERT

October 17, 2016

Mike Stanyard, Regional Agronomist, Cornell Cooperative Extension

### Marestail Control in the Fall

Marestail (Horseweed) infested fields continued to increase this year in WNY. This is mainly an issue in soybean as marestail is controlled with many of our corn herbicide programs. We have glyphosate resistance but unfortunately it looks like we have ALS resistance also. Every instance where a grower used FirstRate, Synchrony, or Classic, as a rescue treatment in soybeans, it did not work. This weed can germinate this fall as well as in the spring with the crop. The plants that survive the winter can be harder to control as they are more mature and can bolt sooner.



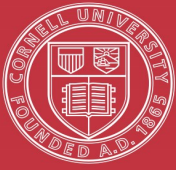
One management practice is to make a fall herbicide treatment where marestail seedlings are observed in the field postharvest this fall. Use 2,4-D ester as the base herbicide to control marestail, and combining it with one of the following to ensure control of other winter weeds: glyphosate; dicamba; Basis (prior to corn); Canopy EX (prior to soybeans) or metribuzin. This is not a substitute for a preplant herbicide treatment next spring. An application of burndown and residual herbicides is still required closer to the time of planting in fields that were treated in the fall.

See the factsheet, "Management of Herbicide Resistant Horseweed in No-Till Soybeans" for more information on Marestail management. [http://weeds.cornell.edu/publications/50737\\_FINAL\\_FactSheet\\_Horseweed.pdf](http://weeds.cornell.edu/publications/50737_FINAL_FactSheet_Horseweed.pdf)



### Fall Weed Control in Wheat

Most of our wheat is planted in WNY. If time and weather permits, the fall is a great time to go after problem weeds that germinate right along with the winter wheat crop. This complex includes corn chamomile, shepherds purse, chickweed, henbit, and purple dead nettle. Buctril should be applied when rosettes are under two inches in diameter. Harmony Extra is affective on a broader spectrum of weeds (wild garlic & chamomile). Ohio State discourages application of 2,4-D to emerged wheat in the fall due to the risk of injury and yield reduction, and most labels do not list this use. Fall application of dicamba has not caused injury or yield loss in their research trials. If you plan on frost seeding clover in your wheat, now is your only chance for weed control.



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### Alfalfa Stand Assessment

It is time to determine if older alfalfa fields are going to be kept another year. Usually by the third year stands begin to look a little thin and weedy species such as dandelion or quackgrass can begin to take over. Herbicides can be applied to take out many of the broadleaf weeds but there might not be enough alfalfa plants to make it an economical choice. The best way to determine if your stand has enough yield potential is to count the number of alfalfa stems in a square foot. Take about five samples throughout the field and if the average number of stems per square foot is lower than 40, it is probably time to rotate.

Stems / sq. ft.	Yield Potential
55	Optimal
40 - 55	Some yield loss expected
<40	Significant yield loss - rotate

The reduced forage yields this year may have some influence on whether or not to burn-down borderline fields. A better option might be to wait until next spring, take off first cutting, burn-down with a herbicide and plant back to corn.