



SOUTHWEST NEW YORK FIELD CROP CHRONICLE

Compiled by Josh Putman - Field Crops Specialist, SWNY Dairy, Livestock, Field Crops Program

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Winter Annual Weeds and Management Options for Marestalk in the Fall

Recently in Southwest NY, it was noticed that dense populations of winter annual weeds are beginning to show up in our winter cereals crops (wheat and triticale) and fallow fields. Common chickweed, henbit, marestalk, winter annual grasses, and mustards are becoming dense in many fields allowing them to establish before winter sets in; of biggest concern is marestalk. Marestalk is becoming one of the most problematic weed species in New York. There are several methods for management of marestalk in the fall, and following any of them will take care of this in addition to most other winter annual weeds. Keep in mind, marestalk which may be present in soybeans this fall are not a concern since they are finishing their life cycle. Seedlings that emerge in late summer into fall and can overwinter are the most problematic. Here are a few options to consider (*adapted from an [article](#) by Dr. Mark Loux with The Ohio State University*). This is not an all-inclusive list of options, but a few for consideration.

- ◆ **Tillage.** Mechanical weed management does not guarantee complete control of marestalk but usually takes care of the problem for the season. Tillage should thoroughly and uniformly mix the upper few inches of soil to uproot existing plants and bury any new seed. Scout in the spring to make sure control is adequate.
- ◆ **Preemergence burndown + residual.** The combination of glyphosate + Sharpen + MSO will control existing marestalk and also provide residual control into late fall. Consider Sharpen rates of 1.0 to 2.0 fl. oz. per acre. Spray volume of 15 to 20 gallons per acre is **required**. Other herbicide options can be found [here](#).
- ◆ **Late fall POST-emergence.** Wheat should have 1 to 2 leaves depending upon the product, before spraying. Options include Huskie, and combinations of dicamba (4 oz) with tribenuron (Express) or similar products. Do not apply products or mixtures containing 2,4-D POST to wheat in fall. Applying 2,4-D prior to tillering can stunt the plants and cause significant yield loss.
- ◆ **Spring POST-emergence.** Spring herbicide plus the competition from an adequate wheat stand can be effective, even though 2,4-D can be weak on overwintered marestalk plants. Options include 2,4-D, 2,4-D + dicamba, or combinations of 2,4-D with an ALS-inhibiting products, such as thifensulfuron/tribenuron (Harmony Xtra). The rate of dicamba that can be used in spring is too low to control marestalk on its own. In NY, we suspect marestalk populations are ALS-resistant, so in the ALS mixtures indicated above, the partner herbicide is carrying the load for marestalk control. Roughly 40 populations from throughout the state were sent to Cornell AgriTech for resistance testing. **Always remember to read and follow the label directions.**



Different size marestalk rosettes in fall (left, middle); mature marestalk in soybeans near West Valley, NY (right) - Source: Josh Putman

HELPING YOU PUT KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

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Important Notice for Licensed Pesticide Applicators

-Information provided by Elizabeth Buck, Cornell Vegetable Program-

Because of COVID-19, the DEC did not require growers whose licenses expired in November of 2019 or later to renew their applicator's license in order to buy and spray restricted-use materials during the 2020 growing season.

That discretionary policy is no longer in effect.

If your license expired between November 2019 and Nov. 23, 2020, you must obtain the full number of recertification credits and renew your license. Starting Nov. 24, 2020, you cannot buy or apply pesticides until your license has been renewed. The DEC is giving growers a 90-day grace period before adding penalty credits to overdue renewal applications. **Growers should complete COVID-delayed license renewals by February 23, 2021.** If your license expires after Nov. 23, 2020, you will follow the typical DEC renewal process.

To recertify, you must have 25% of your required credits in the same category as your license. If you are a commercial applicator, the remaining 75% must be in your category or core credits. If you are a private applicator with a license in categories 21-25, the remaining 75% can be a mix of your category, core, or any other 21-25 category. Category 21-25 licenses must get 10 recertification credits over the 5 year license period and cannot get all 10 credits in a single year.

We at Cornell Cooperative Extension realize that growers may be short on recertification credits. We are working hard to set up opportunities to get credits. **At least six category 23 and two category 22 credits will be available during the online Empire Producers Expo from January 12-14, 2021.** We hope to offer a limited number of in-person seats at Expo satellite sites so those needing to recertify who also have poor internet connectivity can attend Expo. Additionally, CCE has a number of upcoming winter meetings; we anticipate being able to offer recertification credits at those meetings as well.

**Growers seeking credits are encouraged to call CCE or to check the DEC's list of upcoming courses online at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/nyspad/find?1&tab=COURSES>. Courses appear on the list about 30-45 days in advance of the class occurring. Some ag input suppliers and industry groups may also be in a position to offer credits. Online, self-study recertification courses are also available at <http://pmepercourses.cce.cornell.edu/catalog?pagename=ny-credits>. For any questions regarding your license renewal, you can contact the DEC at 518-402-8748.



Weed control (left), corn stalk disease (middle) - Source: Josh Putman; adult alfalfa weevil (right) - Source: Ken Wise, NYS IPM

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