



# SOUTHWEST NEW YORK FIELD CROP CHRONICLE

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## Tracking Palmer Amaranth in SWNY

Palmer amaranth continues to grow at an alarming rate in SWNY. Over the last few weeks, growth at a rate of 0.5 inches per day has been recorded. A lack of moisture and excessive heat have not slowed it down. Some plants are approaching 4 feet in height while we continue to find seedlings (1 inch tall or less) newly emerged from the soil, demonstrating the large emergence window this weed has. As it enters reproductive stage, we will collect the seed to test its growth habits and characteristics along with possible herbicide resistance here in New York.

Palmer amaranth in field corn - 7/31/20  
Photo: J. Putman / SWNYDLFC Program

## Why are weeds alive and more aggressive after being sprayed?

Weeds are supposed to be controlled following a herbicide application, right? Farmers within the region have observed that marestail, a problematic weed in SWNY, not only survived the herbicide application, but came back more aggressive. There are many factors that influence proper weed control. However, researchers at Cornell University suspect we have herbicide-resistant marestail populations throughout the state. Seed from suspected populations will be collected and screened for resistance this fall/winter. Contact Josh Putman if resistance is suspected.

Marestail (POST-spray) between soybean rows near West Valley, NY - 7/31/20  
Photo: J. Putman / SWNYDLFC Program



## Japanese Beetles - Scout Your Fields Now!

Corn in SWNY experienced hot, dry conditions during the mid-to late-vegetative stages of growth. Now that we have entered the reproductive stage, it is important to monitor your fields for this yield robber. Japanese beetles begin to emerge around late June or early July and can cause damage through the end of September. They are known to feed on leaf tissue, but prefer the silk of a corn ear. Beetles will clip back corn silks, which can cause significant pollination issues and affect crop yields. If silks are clipped to 1/2 inch or less, or if 3 or more adults are found per ear, a rescue treatment should be considered (i.e. Insecticide Warrior II with Zeon Technology).

Japanese beetles clipping corn silks - 7/31/20  
Photo: J. Putman / SWNYDLFC Program

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