



Weed Control for the 2008 Cotton Crop

WEED CONTROL for the 2008 cotton crop, in this instance "horseweed" or "marestail," is the subject this week by Dr. J. C. Banks, OSU Extension state cotton specialist: "Horseweed (or Marestail) control in no-till or limited tillage cotton can be summarized as "Get'em while they are small." This normally involved use of a phenoxy type herbicide sprayed in mid to late March. Best control is when the horseweed is in the rosette state before it started growing vertically. Once the plant bolts, control is more difficult and expensive.

"The normal burndown treatment prior to cotton planting is with glyphosate, but these treatments have been inconsistent and raise resistance concerns. In order to comply with planting intervals prior to planting cotton, we need to consider application in March, This application should be one pound active 2,4-D or 0.25 pound active dicamba. The plant back intervals are somewhat confusing, but they should be 30 days following the 2,4-D application or at least 21 days following a one inch rainfall for the dicamba.

"Most dicamba labels also state 'do not apply in regions receiving less than 25 inches of annual rainfall.' Tests indicate that if the application is made to the rosette stage of the horseweed, the 2,4-D was as effective as Banvel. On horseweed that had already bolted, Banvel is more effective, but control can be less than rosette stage application of 2,4-D.

"It is important to not cut labeled rates or spray volume requirements to ensure good control. This March application should control horseweed prior to planting, but at planting, some new weeds may have emerged. These weeds should be controlled by a full labeled rate application of glyphosate prior to planting the cotton.

"Horseweed has become our number one weed control problem in no-till cotton in Oklahoma. If this plant is not controlled early, it can become impossible to control with glyphosate during the growing season. Once it gets above the approximately six inch height, conditions must be perfect to get good control. It is

difficult to get the herbicide into the narrow drought-stressed leaves during the summer. The best advice is to start clean and, if any germination occurs during the growing season, to control it with adequate rates of Roundup while it is still in the rosette stage.

"More information on horseweed control should be on posters at your local county extension office or gin, or it is available on the www.ntokcotton.org website."

TALKIN' COTTON is produced by NTOK Cotton, a cotton industry partnership which supports and encourages cotton production in the Rolling Plains of North Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. For more information on the cotton scene, see okiecotton.org and ntokcotton.org. For questions and comments on Talkin' Cotton, contact eventer-prises@hughes.net.

