

# Wick applicators are handy for tackling problem weeds

DOVER, Del. — Now's the time to treat fields for Johnsongrass and other problem weeds, says University of Delaware

extension crops specialist Frank Webb. This weed is relatively easy to find in soybeans now because it's taller than the

bean plants. You'll have more trouble spotting problem areas in cornfields because of the height of the corn. But you probably

already know where they are.

The best way to treat small localized patches of Johnsongrass is with a foliar spray of Roundup.

It isn't easy lugging a hand sprayer through corn and larger soybean plants to get at trouble spots, but it's worth the effort, says Webb. One good spraying now can kill 100 percent of this weed in an area.

But you must do a thorough job of wetting the foliage, using the proper amount and concentration of material.

Use a quart of Roundup per 25 gallons of water, or if you're using a small pump-up sprayer use three tablespoons per gallon of water.

Add a tablespoon of surfactant per three gallons of

mixture to increase the effectiveness of your herbicide.

The surfactant will also make it easier to tell whether a plant has already been sprayed, since it gives foliage a wetter look.

Weeds that spread down the rows so that there aren't enough to broadcast spray but too many to spot treat can be handled with a recirculating sprayer or wick applicator using Roundup. In order to use either of these applicator types, the weeds must be taller than the soybeans.

The wick applicator is a great new idea that's proving very effective for directed Johnsongrass control, says Webb. You can easily make your own.

The parts will cost you about \$150--about the

cheapest you can go for a piece of farm equipment these days. And it will only take you a few hours to put one together. For more information on how to make a wick applicator, call the county extension office in Newark (302/738-2506), Dover (302/736-4675) or Georgetown (302/856-5250).





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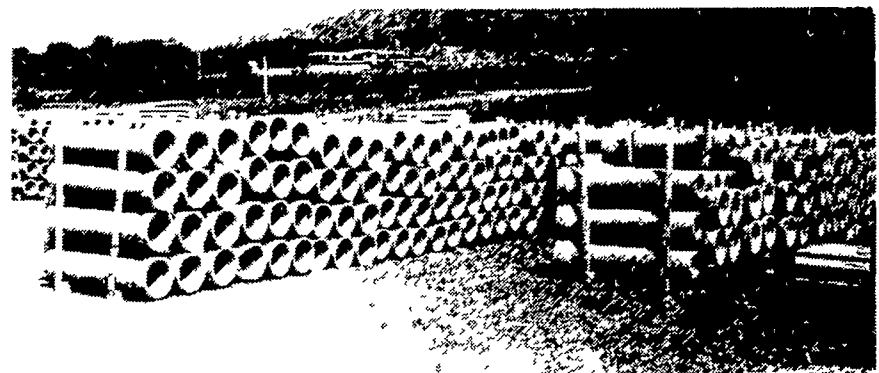
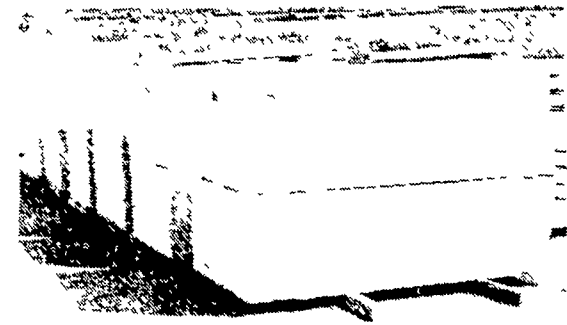
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