

How to identify and control shattercane

BLUE BALL — Farmers within a two to three mile radius of Blue Ball have been pestered with a deep-seeded weed that looks a bit like Johnsongrass, but really is shattercane.

Shattercane may have come from any of a number of sources including seed lots, cattle from the South, or neighboring fields.

What interests farmers most now about the problem they are seeing as they chop corn is how to get rid of it next Spring.

The Adult Farmer Program of the Eastern Lancaster County School District conducted test plots to evaluate various herbicide combinations to control shattercane in corn.

The plots were on three farms in eastern Lancaster County, east of Blue Ball along route 23. Each test plot area was two to three acres in size with each treatment averaging about one fourth acre. These farms have a history of moderate to severe shattercane pressure in previous years.



Robert Anderson, adult farmer instructor, stands amid a shattercane infested corn field along Rt. 23 near Blue Ball. Note height of weed. Over 50 percent of the farms within a two to three mile radius of the town have shattercane infestations.

In addition to evaluating the herbicide combinations, single versus double incorporation of pre-plant incorporated (PPI) materials was evaluated. Materials were provided by Stauffer Chemical, Ciba-Geigy Chemical, and American Cyanamid Chemical Companies.

All herbicides were applied the same day (except the Prowl) using a sprayer mounted on a disk followed by a "vibra-shank" field cultivator. For double incorporation, both implements were used; for single incorporation, the field cultivator was raised using only the disk. The disk was set to cut six to eight inches deep. Spraying was done May 26, corn was planted May 27, Prowl was applied May 28 as a pre-emerge surface application. Incorporation of Prowl will damage corn.

Shattercane is a weed that looks similar to sorghum-sudangrass hybrids and Johnsongrass, often growing seed heads that are taller than the corn tassles. In the south it has been grown as a green-chop forage crop and was probably introduced into this area for such a purpose.

Unlike the Sudangrass-sorghum hybrids also used for green-chop, the shattercane seeds will overwinter and germinate when soils warm up to 60 degrees in the spring.

Seeds will germinate from very deep, up to six inches. Since the weed is very much like corn, herbicides must be highly selective to be effective on shattercane - therefore, many of our common corn herbicides have little effect.

Because the seeds do not germinate as early as corn and from much deeper, the timing of herbicide application, the depth and completeness of incorporation becomes critical.

It was suspected the herbicides Eradicane, Sutan, and Prowl would have some effectiveness against shattercane. AATrex was added to each of these for broadleaf weed control. Lasso/AATrex and Dual/AATrex were used as controls since these two combinations had been used previously and controlled most weeds except shattercane.

Weed control was observed throughout the growing season and a final evaluation was made on September 9 and 10, when the corn crop was ready to be ensiled.

The evaluations were made by counting the number of shattercane plants with mature seed heads in eight different 150 square foot areas (1200 square feet) in each treatment on each farm. The results are recorded as plants per 100 square feet. Control of other weeds was observed but not recorded in the results. Brief mention of these is made in the conclusions.

Note: if the weed plants in the 150 square foot area numbered more than 50 plants, a value of greater-than 50 was recorded. Thus, some of the evaluation summaries will indicate counts greater-than the average indicated.

(Turn to Page B3)

PORK PROFIT

THRIVE CENTER
PORK PROFIT SYSTEM
 CALL
215-593-2157

HUSKEE-BILT
 CONSTRUCTION CO.
ROBERT McCOMSEY
 RD 1 COCHRANVILLE, PA 19330

DAIRYMEN YOU NEED A

KE FREE PREHEATER

The Interest In This Unit Has Been Overwhelming

A Low Cost Unit That Will Fit Your Pocketbook.

— FEATURING —

- Removable Coils inside a 2½' Clean out hole.
- Set Up From 1 to 4 compressors.

The Price Is Unbelievable!

ENERGY RECLAIMING UNIT

CALL 717-626-1152

TH

TERRE HILL SILO CO. INC.
 Serving The Farm Community For Over One-Half Century
TERRE HILL, PA. 17581

Manufacturers & Erectors of Terre Hill

TRI-RIB STAVE SILO

FOR OLD FASHIONED PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP

SEE AND COMPARE THE PROVEN INTERIOR SILO FINISHES

AUTHORIZED DEALER: **Patz**

CALL TERRE HILL (215) 445-6736 or SALESMAN JAMES EBSHSHADE - 717-464 2090

THINK OF IT AS A GLASS OF WATER THAT WON'T BREAK OR GO DRY.

Simple, bright ideas make Shenandoah products better. Like our valves and troughs. For proper dependable watering, the valve simply has to work full time. So our highly sensitive water level control makes sure the water doesn't go down. And fewer moving parts mean there's less chance of it breaking down. Then there are the little differences we build in like heavy-duty frames and stainless steel troughs that make our waterers so durable. And your job so easy.

At Shenandoah, we make the best products we possibly can. And that's a bright idea.

S Shenandoah
 Bright ideas in farm equipment.

• SALES • INSTALLATION • SERVICE

AGRI-EQUIPMENT, INC.

CATTLE - HOG - POULTRY EQUIPMENT
 R.D. 4, EPHRATA, PA. 17522
 PHONE: 717-354-4271

STORE HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 to 5:30; Sat. 7:30 to 12:00
SERVING PA, N.J. & N.Y.