

# Johnsongrass

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traordinary seedling capacity — each panicle can produce 350 seeds which can germinate and remain viable in the soil up to 25 years — and farmers are faced with one tough weed control challenge.

But, the problem is not insurmountable. Farmers have traditionally relied on tillage, cultural practices and pre-plant incorporated and postemergence herbicide treatments. Today, agronomists and weed specialists agree that while any one of these methods alone won't do the job, a combination of two or more can bring Johnsongrass under control.

"Farmers have more Johnsongrass control options available to them today than ever before," says Sheldon Blank, weed control specialist at Monsanto, "including crop rotation, grazing livestock, cultivation and chemicals. However, most weed scientists agree that utilizing just one technique will meet with only limited success in controlling Johnsongrass. Selecting several complementary techniques designed to get both rhizomes and

seedlings is probably the best approach."

"Some farmers have found rotating out of soybeans and cotton and into a solid-seeded crop such as winter wheat is a good first step in a Johnsongrass control program," continues Blank. "The land is then left fallow after wheat harvest. This allows ample time for regrowth of the Johnsongrass to the boot to head stage before applying Roundup herbicide at the 2-3 quart per acre rate for control of emerged vegetation and underground rhizomes.

"The next step the following spring is to apply a pre-emergence herbicide for seedling control. The final step in the program is an in-season, selective application of Roundup herbicide to Johnsongrass escapes by means of a rope wick or some other wiper applicator."

Hartwig of Penn State recommends a similar program of rotation into small grain crops followed by spot treatment with Roundup — "probably the best herbicide we have at the moment to wipe out established Johnsongrass."

# California can receive stallions from CEM countries

NEW YORK, N.Y. — U.S. Department of Agriculture officials have added California to the list of six states approved to receive stallions imported from countries infected with contagious equine metritis.

David Herrick, a staff veterinarian with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said a state is authorized to receive stallions from countries affected with the disease only if it has laws or regulations that require post-entry inspection, testing and treatment of the stallions to prevent introduction of the disease.

These rules are in addition to USDA-required testing and inspection in the nation of origin and at the U.S. port of entry animal import center, Herrick said.

Other approved states are Colorado, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

Contagious equine metritis has been spread by international shipment of infected breeding horses since it was discovered in 1976. The only cases diagnosed in the United States have been in Kentucky and Missouri. Nations considered infected are Australia, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom.

Contagious equine metritis is a highly transmissible venereal disease of horses that infects

mares, causing them to fail to conceive. The stallion is a carrier, but can be treated by cleaning and disinfecting the genitals, using specific antibiotics.

Notice of this action was scheduled for publication in the April 30 Federal Register.

Public comments may be sent, by June 29, to the deputy administrator for veterinary services, APHIS, USDA, 6506 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

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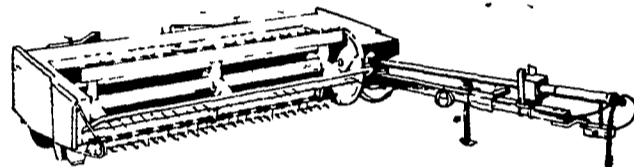
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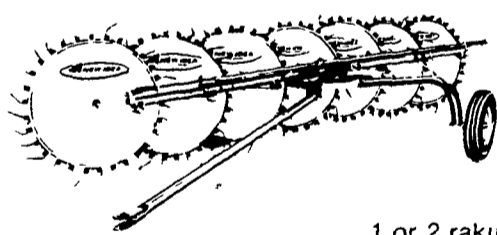
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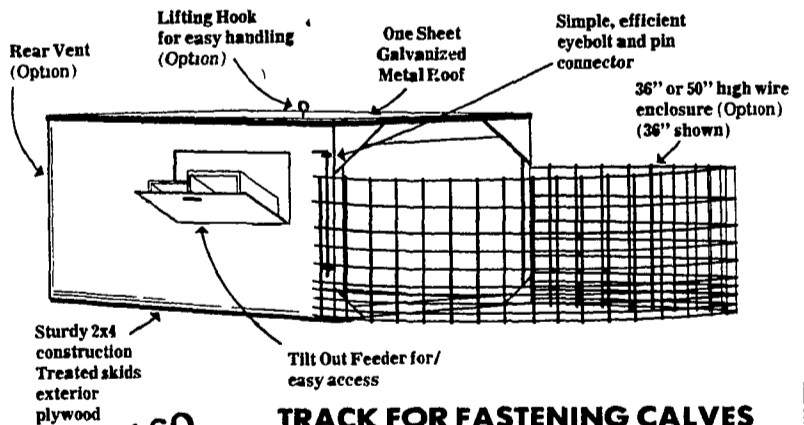
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