

How to stop perennial weeds

CHICAGO — An in-crop herbicide application to control Canada thistle seedlings in corn is a crucial part of the multiyear program needed to eliminate the weed, say weed scientists.

Cool, wet weather early last spring created optimal growing conditions for Canada thistle and infestations have also been increasing because of reduced tillage.

Dr. Robert Wilson, a weed specialist at the University of Nebraska Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff, agrees. "With reduced tillage increasing, the perennial weed problems are also increasing. We have pretty extensive Canada thistle problems in western Nebraska."

There are many methods to control Canada thistle, but Dr. Richard Fawcett, a crop consultant in Huxley, Iowa, warns that it "doesn't give up easily."

Canada thistle is a prolific perennial, spreading rapidly by seeds and lateral root growth from infested areas. Its flowers produce

nearly 50 seeds and a single stalk can produce thousands of seeds. Its massive root system can extend 15 feet laterally, sending up new plants every 8 to 12 inches. Roots can extend 6 to 10 feet into the ground.

Tillage controls Canada thistle by exposing roots to drying and freezing at the soil surface. Repeated destruction of the top growth by tillage, whenever growth reaches a height of 2 to 3 inches, kills plants by depleting food stored in the roots.

Fall spraying is also very effective for controlling Canada thistle. Dr. Fawcett adds, however, that "Farmers should not expect instantaneous results from fall applications. Canada thistle control requires more than one treatment."

To control Canada thistle seedlings and suppress established plants, growers should plan to apply 1 pint of Banvel herbicide early postemergence, when corn is spike-to-five inches tall.

Banvel is effective on Canada thistle because it is a translocating

herbicide that moves through the entire plant, according to Dr. Wayne Olson, Velsicol Chemical Corporation Product Development field manager, Indianapolis.

A follow-up application of Banvel in fall, after harvest but before killing frost, will translocate to kill perennial root stocks.

Adding 2, 4-D to the application burns the above-ground portion of the plant too quickly, preventing Banvel translocation into the roots and reducing its activity against Canada thistle, cautions Dr. Olson. Killing only the above ground portion of the plant can't guarantee long-term control.

In addition to suppressing perennials, the 1 pint Banvel overlay will control emerged annual broadleaf weeds and provide residual control for late-emerging weeds. While 2, 4-D is also effective against annual broadleaves at the time of application, it lacks residual control. 2, 4-D can also cause corn brittleness, resulting in stand reduction from wind or cultivation.

Dr. Olson also stresses the need

to continue the in-crop treatment for at least two years after the fall application of Banvel or until the problem is under control. "Canada thistle can't be eradicated, because of seeds transported from

neighboring fields. But with a multiyear program involving in-crop and between crop applications, Canada thistle can be controlled, and farmers will get improved crop yields."

Nolting appointed

Dennis Nolting was recently appointed Director of Marketing and Sales for the Star-trac product line of Starline Products, Inc., Harvard, IL. Prior to his new appointment, Nolting was District Manager of Northeast Sales for Starline's Cannon Ball/HNP product line. Before that, he was General Sales Manager for HNP, Inc., a door manufacturer acquired by Starline. Nolting was previously employed by the Indiana Farm Bureau as Manager of Sales and Operations.



CCC cheese purchase

price increases

WASHINGTON — Acting Secretary of Agriculture Orville Bentley today announced an increase in the Commodity Credit Corporation purchase price for cheese.

Section 103 of the Food Security Act of 1985, signed by the president on Dec. 23, prohibits the secretary from taking any market value of whey into consideration for the purpose of supporting the price of milk.

Since April 1, 1985, the CCC purchase prices for cheese have been based on a projected whey powder return of one cent per pound for manufactured cheese.

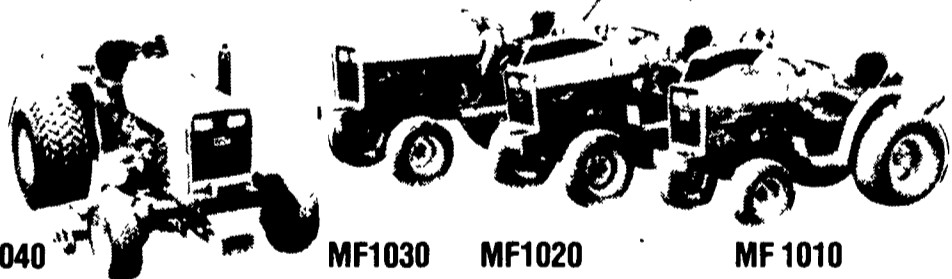
As a result of eliminating consideration of the whey powder return, the purchase prices for cheddar cheese produced on or after Dec. 23 are increased on cent per pound — to \$1.25 per pound for 40-pound blocks and \$1.2075 per pound for 500-pound barrels.

The CCC purchase prices for butter and nonfat dry milk remain unchanged from those announced June 26, 1985.

The Food Security Act also establishes the support price for milk at \$11.60 per hundredweight for the period Jan. 1, 1986, through Dec. 31, 1986. This price has been in effect since July 1, 1985.

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