

Foraging Around



By Dr. John E. Baylor
 Director of Market Development
 Beachley-Hardy Seed Company

THAT PESKY CHICKWEED

The mild weather in January and February has resulted in a major chickweed problem in alfalfa, especially in Southeastern Pennsylvania and points south. That's the story I heard repeatedly as I traveled across Lancaster and Chester Counties last week. The problem is especially serious in seedings made last August. But there's also plenty of chickweed and other winter annual weeds in seedings made last spring, and older stands as well.

What, if anything, can be done right now to reduce the competition caused by this troublesome weed? The options are either none or at best very limited. But in an attempt to find some answers I checked with Penn State weed scientists Nate Hartwig and Lynn Hoffman for some suggestions.

But first a word about chickweed itself. It's a winter annual that starts to grow anytime the

temperature is above freezing. A prolific seed producer it's already flowering in some areas and by early April or before, will be producing an abundance of seed which can spell more trouble for next winter.

CONTROL IN LATE SUMMER SEEDINGS

The biggest chickweed problem is in alfalfa seedings made last August. And here of course, is where competition on the alfalfa is the greatest. Unfortunately, however, there's not much you can do to control chickweed in August seedings.

If the seeding includes a grass there are no options. And at the moment the same is true for alfalfa seeded alone. But, Dr. Nate Hartwig tells me, a special local needs (24C) label has been applied for allowing the use of gramoxone (paraquat) on new seedings of alfalfa less than one year old. If approved, Hartwig says, this label

may be available within a short time.

OLDER ALFALFA STANDS

On established alfalfa stands more than one year old gramoxone (paraquat) can be used. However to avoid injury to the alfalfa do not apply if new spring growth exceeds one inch. Applications made at later stage of growth may set the crop back and reduce first harvest yield. And do not use more than the recommended rate. Add surfactant as directed on the label and follow all other label directions carefully.

Other options on older stands include Velpar, Sinbar, and Lexone/Sencor 4L, Lynn Hoffman reminds you. Velpar applied at the rate of one-half to one and one half lbs. per acre does an excellent job of controlling dandelions as well as many winter annual weeds, and is reasonably effective on chickweed, Lynn tells me. It should be applied in a minimum of 20 gallons of water and before 2 inches of new alfalfa growth is present.

Sinbar (terbacil) applied in the spring before new alfalfa growth begins is also effective on chickweed, benbit and other broadleaved weeds, Hoffman says. But if you use Sinbar remember do not replant the field to any crop within 2 years after the last application.

Lexone/Sencor 4L (metribuzin) applied at the recommended rate will control dandelion and a number of annual broadleaves and is reasonably effective on chickweed. In liquid form alfalfa may be severely injured if new growth is present at spring application.

However, if impregnated on dry fertilizer these products may be applied safely after dormancy is

broken, but prior to 3 inches of new alfalfa growth. Metribuzin may be used on alfalfa-grass mixtures, but may injure grasses if applied at the higher rates.

All chemicals should, of course, be applied when the air temperature is above freezing. And for

maximum benefit from paraquat daytime temperatures into the 50's are desirable.

Under all circumstances be sure to read the label carefully before using, Hartwig, Hoffman repeated. And follow all directions on the label carefully.

Records Broken

At NCGA Corn Classic

PHOENIX, Ariz. — A record number of 1,927 attendees from 42 states; Washington, D.C.; Canada; and Mexico flocked to the 1990 National Corn Growers Association's (NCGA) 32nd annual Corn Classic, held February 21-23.

The record crowd had an opportunity to view the largest trade show exhibit at a Corn Classic, where 86 exhibitors occupied 177 booth spaces and heard nationally known speakers.

"Our Corn Classic attendance and trade show have nearly doubled in the past four years," said NCGA President Alan Kemper, a Lafayette, Indiana corn grower. "And corporate support for the Classic was at its highest level, with 33 companies sponsor-

ing various programs, meals, receptions and awards.

"The Corn Classic has truly become the corn industry event of the year, with all industry segments represented," Kemper said.

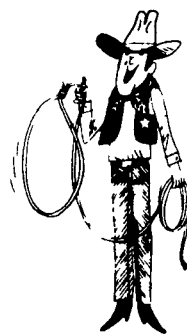
NCGA leaders selected the Phoenix location to recognize the city for its efforts to reduce carbon monoxide levels caused by auto emissions by using corn-derived ethanol blended fuels. While it was the first time a Corn Classic has been held outside the major corn growing area of the country, response from attendees, exhibitors, and corporate sponsors exceeded expectations, according to Kemper.

The NCGA Corn Classic returns to the Midwest in 1991, and is set for February 20-22 in Kansas City, Missouri.

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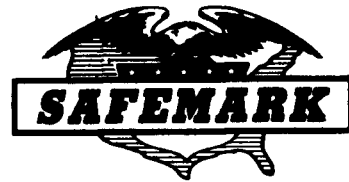
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* 6.00x16	6 Ply	37.00
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13.6x38	6 Ply	239.00
14.9x24	6 Ply	206.00
14.9x26	6 Ply	207.00
14.9x28	6 Ply	221.00
14.9x38	6 Ply	259.00
15.5x38	6 Ply	272.00
16.9x24	6 Ply	231.00
16.9x30	6 Ply	281.00
16.9x34	6 Ply	310.00
16.9x38	6 Ply	346.00
18.4x30	6 Ply	312.00
18.4x34	8 Ply	396.00
18.4x38	8 Ply	451.00
20.8x38	10 Ply	684.00

Implement

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* 9.5Lx15	6 Ply	40.50
* 9.5Lx15	8 Ply	42.50
* 11Lx15	6 Ply	43.00
* 11Lx15	8 Ply	45.00
* 12.5Lx15	8 Ply	62.00
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