

# Corn Talk News

## RESEARCH UPDATE



### CORN TALK NEWS

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

### TOO LATE TO CONTROL PERENNIALS THIS FALL?

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Penn State  
Weed Specialist

Fall is generally the best time to kill most of our "herbaceous" perennials such as Canada thistle, quackgrass, and hemp dogbane.

It is also the best time to kill an old legume or grass hay field or pasture. However, by this time (mid-October), you may be asking whether that application is still worthwhile.

Except for some of the more cool-season types of perennials, the benefit of applying a herbicide after the first hard frost is questionable. If in doubt, examine the plant for signs of life.

For example, with hemp dogbane, if the leaves still appear mostly green and healthy and the root buds are

pink, an application of Roundup, 2,4-D, or Banvel could still pay off.

For the last two seasons, we compared two application times (Sept. 1 and Oct. 1) for several herbicides including Roundup on hemp dogbane control in the fall. Although the early September timing was slightly better than early October (80 percent vs. 70 percent control), both timings were more effective than spring or early summer application of systemic herbicides in corn.

With the cooler season species (Canada thistle, quackgrass, orchardgrass, etc.) we generally have more time to make that application. However, the effectiveness generally starts to decrease after mid-September, depending on location.

In a study conducted by Dr. Nathan Hartwig, professor of weed science, the later fall applications of Roundup on quackgrass control were less

effective than earlier timings (Table 1). As a general rule for cool season species, make applications before September 30 in northern and western Pennsylvania, before October 15 in central Pennsylvania, and before November 1 in southern Pennsylvania.

For our more "fair-weather" types of perennials such as hemp dogbane, bindweed, and wirestem muhly, move these dates up by about 1 month.

The application rate for Roundup is 1 to 2 quarts per acre (3 to 6 pints per acre for Ranger). The lower rates of Roundup require low volume application (3 to 10 gallons of

Table 1. The following table is from some research conducted in Central Pennsylvania in the 1970s. The effect of application timing on quackgrass control is readily apparent. Roundup was applied at 1 1/3 quarts per acre.


Time of Application	Percent Quackgrass Control
Late September	>90%
Early October	80-90%
November	50-60%

carrier per acre plus surfactant and ammonium sulfate). Fall applications of Banvel, 2,4-D, Banvel +2,4-D, or in combination with Roundup are also more effective than spring treatments on killing old alfalfa sods or most other perennial broadleaf species. In addition, fall applications of Banvel

allow for spring soybean or forage legume plantings, while spring treatments do not.

The addition of Roundup or Ranger to 2,4-D and/or Banvel can broaden the spectrum and is necessary for grass control. Banvel and/or 2,4-D LVE rates are generally 1 to 2 pints per acre.



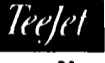




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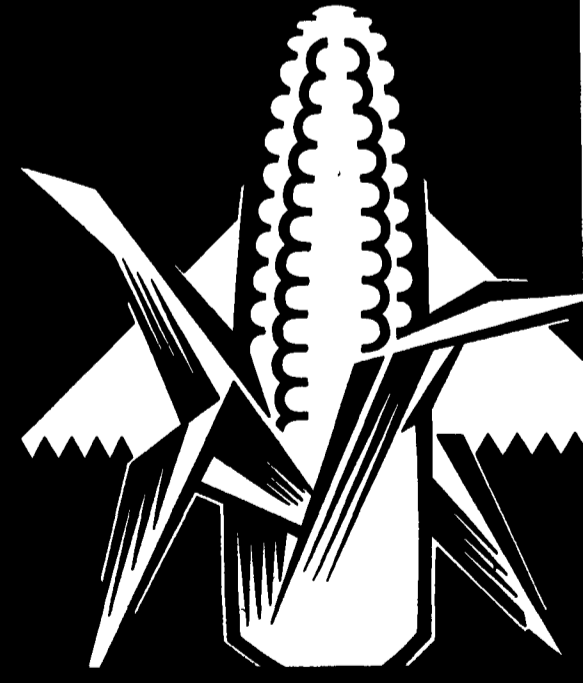
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