

Marestail

Overview

Marestail, also known as horseweed, is prevalent and problematic, especially in no-till or low-till fields. Because it seeds in both spring and fall and can be herbicide-resistant, it is difficult to control. Effective management requires a combination of tactics.

What you should know

- Marestail (horseweed) is a winter annual weed that emerges in both the fall and spring. Fall-emergent plants can survive the winter and keep growing in the spring, making them harder to control.
- Marestail thrives where soil is not disturbed, including no-till fields.
- Once plants grow above 5 inches tall, they are very difficult to control with herbicides alone.
- It is especially challenging to control in soybeans due to limited herbicide options and soybean's summer life cycle.
- Marestail is a single-stem plant covered with bristly hairs that can grow up to 6 feet tall. Its seedlings grow into rosettes that later "bolt" into upright stems. It develops tiny, urn-shaped flowers between July and August.
- Marestail can produce an average of 200,000 seeds per plant. These seeds can be wind-blown long distances, spreading to neighboring farms and even into other counties or states.

Action steps

1. **Control fall emergence before winter:** Burndown can keep marestail seedlings from overwintering and becoming challenging to control in the spring.
2. **Use multiple modes of action:** Vary effective herbicide modes of action in tank mixes and between applications to prevent selection of weeds resistant to certain herbicides like glyphosate or ALS.
3. **Include corn or small grains in rotation:** Small grains increase herbicide options and compete with marestail for sunlight.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/weeds/extension/marestail-horseweed>
<https://extension.psu.edu/marestail-horseweed-management>

For more information, contact:



www.nutechseed.com
1-888-647-3478



Multiple modes of action may be required to control marestail.



30-Second Summary

- Marestail is difficult to control due to its emergence patterns and resistance to some herbicides.
- Marestail seed is easily spread by the wind to nearby geographies.
- Multiple modes of action may be required to control marestail.

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