

Waterhemp

Overview

Waterhemp, a member of the pigweed family, is one of the most challenging weeds to control in corn and soybean fields. With glyphosate-resistant waterhemp populations increasing, yield losses can be significant.

What you should know

- Waterhemp is a competitive weed. Yield losses up to 50% or greater have been reported when waterhemp was not controlled in soybeans.
- A single female waterhemp plant produces more than 100,000 seeds, and could produce a million or more seeds under optimal growing conditions.
- Waterhemp has a higher relative growth rate than most weeds or crops—1-1.25 inches per day.
- Waterhemp leaves are elongated and often waxy or shiny. Stems and leaf surfaces are hairless. These characteristics help differentiate waterhemp from other pigweed species, such as palmer amaranth.
- Waterhemp produces both female and male flowers, helping it achieve genetic diversity. This helps waterhemp develop herbicide resistance when exposed to the same herbicide multiple times within a growing season.
- Populations of waterhemp have been found to be resistant to as many as four herbicide groups.

Action steps

1. **Practice effective crop management:** Keep row spacing narrow and strive for optimal planting populations in crops such as soybeans.
2. **Apply pre-emergent herbicides:** Before or soon after planting, apply a pre-emergent, soil-residual herbicide according to label guidelines.
3. **Tank mix correctly:** If you suspect waterhemp in your fields is glyphosate-resistant, use a tank-mixture of glyphosate and an herbicide from Group 14 and/or Group 2 for effective post-emergence control.

<https://cropwatch.unl.edu/postemergence-control-emerged-waterhemp-soybeans>
https://weeds.cscience.missouri.edu/publications/50737_3_TA_FactSheet_Waterhemp.pdf

For more information, contact:



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Each waterhemp plant can grow an inch each day, and can produce more than 100,000 seeds.



30-Second Summary

- Waterhemp is one of the toughest weeds to control in soybean and corn fields.
- It can grow more than an inch per day.
- Waterhemp is resistant to multiple groups of herbicides.
- Pre- and post-emergence herbicides may be needed to control resistant waterhemp.

NOTES:
