

HOW WELL DID YOUR HERBICIDE DO?



As herbicide spraying wraps up and attention turns to insects and diseases, don't forget to take the time to do an assessment of how well your herbicide of choice did its job this year. First and foremost, did it address the weed species causing problems in your fields? Different environmental conditions tend to favour different weeds. Warm and dry conditions lead to increases in things like kochia and Russian thistle, while a wet cycle brings on increased populations of species like corn spurry, red root pigweed and Sow thistle. It's important to adjust your crop protection program to address an ever changing weed spectrum. I have seen kochia go from a fringe weed to a major problem in several fields over the last 3 years; often because it was resistant to multiple groups of herbicides and the producer was slow to adjust his crop protection program to reflect that reality. Once a new weed is established; especially one that is resistant to one or more herbicide groups, it becomes very hard to contain.

With that in mind, keep an eye out for suspicious weed patches and inspect them to see if they are the result of a miss or if they are herbicide resistant. A miss will tend to have a defined shape and include multiple species of weeds, while an irregularly shaped patch of a single species almost invariably means resistance. When you find such patches, I recommend flagging them in the Operations Center (see below). This not only gives you the exact location in the field where you saw the problem, it serves as a handy reminder when you are sitting down to plan your next year. It's far too easy to forget about that "problem field" when you are making plans in the winter. The next time you think about it may be when you are on the edge of that field next spring, with a sprayer already loaded with the wrong product.

Field Details Boundaries Guidance **Flags**

Flag Details

Type: Point

POINT

Latitude

52.70875177

Longitude

-111.84658872

Notes

Resistant Wild Oats

As early as 2018, *Scientific American* posted an article called "Weeds Are Winning the War against Herbicide Resistance". It is even truer in 2024 than it was then. We cannot stop the development of weed resistance. The best we can hope for it to delay its onset through a variety of management practices. The first step on that path is to identify the scope of the problem, and that means boots on the ground. So I urge you to take the time to look for those suspicious patches of weeds in your fields and ensure that they are top of mind when it comes time to plan for 2025.

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Agonomist

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