

C.O.R.N. to go....

A Supplement to the OSU Extension Agronomic Crops Team Online C.O.R.N. Newsletter ~ This version for Ohio's Country Journal is by Harold Watters
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Weed management in Ohio

I hear the neighbor's combine running and the semi rolling past the house so it's a good night to harvest late. Hopefully as everyone harvested their soybeans they were observing what weeds are out there. We did have an open canopy for an extended period into the year due to the cool, wet growing conditions. This often leads to an increased number of weeds. Our county educators have been observing soybean fields across the state this fall to see what is out there for our annual fall soybean weed survey. See table 1 for our results.

We do have a number of fields across the state that are weed free – a rough estimate from these number is about one third. So that means that we can manage our weed problems in soybeans, but it takes paying attention and being a good manager.

No area is without some weed resistant to our major herbicide pro-

Table 1. The table below show the number of fields observed in each region, the percent of fields without weeds and weeds observed ranked by appearance.

Region of Ohio	Number of fields observed	% of fields without weeds	Appearance by weed; ranked in order
Northeast	296	26	Marestail; grasses; Common lambsquarters; Volunteer corn; and pigweeds
East central	71	35	Marestail; Giant ragweed; Common ragweed; and Redroot pigweed
Central	206	45	Giant ragweed; Marestail
Northwest	755	46	Marestail; Giant ragweed; Common ragweed; grasses; pigweeds
West central	716	22	Giant ragweed; Marestail; Tall waterhemp; Volunteer corn; grasses
Southwest	270	33	Marestail; Giant ragweed; Volunteer corn; common ragweed; pigweeds

gram – Roundup Ready technology. We have seen for a number of years now that Marestail is a major concern almost everywhere in the state. Few growers today can get away with ignoring this weed. Giant ragweed in some areas is now the dominant weed in soybean fields, and volunteer corn

still is a problem – even though there are easy solutions for control of this lingering glyphosate tolerant volunteer. The pigweeds also appear in the surveys almost everywhere in the state – with a big appearance in west central Ohio. We must manage the pigweeds in general, and Waterhemp in particular much better than we do now.

So who conducts the Fall Soybean Weed Survey by driving 80 miles on the road in each county? In Table 2, is a listing of the counties in the survey, the Extension educator, the number of fields and the acres they checked on.

That is over 2,000 soybean fields and 130,000 acres they sampled to make these observations. You can see in the list we had a significant number of counties and fields surveyed by our county Extension folks. Enough that we have a good idea of what is happening in each region of the state. They will report on local results by weed as we have our winter programs.

What works?

As I toured Ohio soybean growing areas over the summer, I checked with growers on what worked well for them. They reported the efforts they have gone to that reduced their weed problems in soybeans. Many found good yielding Liberty varieties and are happy they went all LibertyLink. And many of the OSU weed survey folks noted RRxtend signs on fields that had no weeds.

This is the list that works – and sounds an awful lot like the recommen-

dations of Mark Loux our Ohio State University Weeds Specialist.

1. Apply a fall burndown that includes 2,4-D.. plus dicamba, plus glyphosate, or whatever - just don't spend the money now on a residual. Especially for Marestail control.

2. Increase use of metribuzin. Always a residual in the spring, even on worked ground.

3. A switch to LibertyLink varieties, and due diligence on these other suggestions.

4. Use of full rate of pre-emergent herbicide at planting in the spring. Even on worked ground.

5. I add number 5 for 2018. Consider dicamba resistant soybean varieties.

- o But a couple of items have come up on this option – the formulations labeled for soybeans are now restricted use herbicides. Because we had some movement of this herbicide.

- o This means you need to have a pesticide applicators license, and take continuing education classes on managing drift, volatility and the environment.

- o And your likely target weeds – Marestail and Giant ragweed have already shown a great genetic capacity for evading control.

To learn more about managing weeds in Ohio. Attend your local county Ohio State University plant health recertification program – it was the Pesticide Recertification program but now includes fertilizer as part of the updates so I am calling it plant health recertification. Also recertification is now a four-hour program, up from three hours we had in the past.

Table 2. County, educator, acres and field number by county in the 2017 Fall Soybean Weed Survey.

County	OSU Extension AgNR educator	Acres surveyed	Total number fields
Ashtabula	David Marrison	4947	110
Auglaize	Jeff Stachler	5198	108
Butler	Cindy Meyer	3749	100
Champaign	Amanda Douridas	2845	92
Coshocton & Muskingum	Emily Adams & Clifton Martin	3715	54
Darke	Sam Custer	5332	110
Defiance	Bruce Clevenger	5740	103
Fayette	Ken Ford	14730	95
Fulton	Eric Richer	3025	55
Geauga	Les Ober	1919	100
Hancock	Ed Lentz	8725	144
Hardin	Mark Badertscher	4970	105
Henry	Garth Ruff	3536	81
Licking	Dean Kreager	350	17
Madison	Mary Griffith	11106	96
Mercer	Denny Riethman	4255	110
Miami	Amanda Bennett	3326	82
Montgomery	Suzanne Mills-Wasniak	5895	76
Paulding	Sarah Noggle	8748	91
Pickaway	Mike Estadt	11177	110
Putnam	Beth Scheckelhoff	NA	185
Shelby	Debbie Brown	6718	110
Trumbull	Lee Beers	3571	86
Williams	John Schoenhals	7545	96

Insects and disease for 2017

Insects weren't as bad as we expected. Certainly we saw Stink bugs out here but generally they did not hit as hard as in 2016. End of season Bean leaf beetle also appeared but did less damage than expected. For diseases everyone I spoke with said it paid for

itself, big time. The problem is most did not have a check in the field to know that for sure.

We still recommend scouting, knowing your thresholds and they applying the product that works when we see insects or disease. This winter our state

specialists will be updating their recommendations. They do work in replicated plots, with untreated checks, to know if there is a value in the application.

And lastly, soybean aphids were seen moving to Buckthorn. That is the

overwintering host for soybean aphid. Typically we see an aphid problem in odd numbered years in Ohio, like 2017, but we will need to watch for this pest in 2018 with this situation. Watch the C.O.R.N. newsletter as always for more on this topic: <http://corn.osu.edu>.