

Recent warm temperatures and rains have stimulated spring emergence and resumed growth of winter weeds such as purple deadnettle, henbit, chickweed, and marestalk. In addition, dandelions have begun to green up and will require attention as well. The major problems with deadnettle, henbit, and chickweed are slow soil drying and interference with tillage and planting. So, the goal of managing these weeds should be to control them in a timely manner to allow time for weed desiccation and the soil to dry. Typically winter weeds and dandelion are more difficult to control in the spring versus in the fall, 1) because some metabolic process in annual and perennial plants are different in the fall versus the spring, and 2) because cold weather reduces herbicide effectiveness.

You should consider making attempts to manage these weeds now (in March) if you have dense infestations at the current time and you have had problems with slow soil drying due to winter weeds in the past. There are a number of different herbicide combinations and approaches that are dependent on the weeds present and your planned herbicide program for summer annual weeds. Most of these are based on utilization of glyphosate or glyphosate + 2,4-D. At the current time we are also very concerned about continued spread and development of glyphosate resistant marestalk. We recognize that glyphosate is very effective on a number of winter weeds. However, since over 90% of the soybean acres in Indiana and Ohio are Roundup Ready, we are recommending that you *consider* switching to burndown herbicides that do not include glyphosate in areas where glyphosate-resistant marestalk is present. In areas where glyphosate resistant marestalk has not been found, it is highly recommended that 2,4-D be added to glyphosate based programs. This will help to reduce selection pressure for glyphosate-resistant biotypes and hopefully prolong the usefulness of the Roundup Ready soybean technology.

For areas with heavy infestations of glyphosate resistant marestalk, here are a few non-glyphosate programs to consider using for March burndown treatments.

For control of deadnettle, henbit, chickweed, and marestail before soybean:

- Sencor (8 oz/A) + 2,4-D (0.5 lb ae/A)
- Canopy XL (2.5 oz/A) + Express (0.1 to 0.2 oz/A) + 2,4-D (0.5 lb ae/A)
- Classic (1 oz/A) + Express (0.1 to 0.2 oz/A) + 2,4-D (0.5 lb ae/A)
- Gramoxone Max (2 pt/A) + Sencor (4 or 5 oz/A) + 2,4-D (0.5 lb ae/A)
- Sencor (5 oz/A) + Python (0.8 to 1 oz/A will also provide some lambsquarter and velvetleaf suppression) + 2,4-D (0.5 lb ae/A)

For control of deadnettle, henbit, chickweed, and marestail before corn:

- Atrazine 1.5 lb ai/A + 2,4-D (0.5 lb ae/A)
- Gramoxone Max (2 pt/A) + atrazine (1 lb ai/A) + 2,4-D (0.5 lb ae/A)
- Atrazine (1.5 lb ai/A) + Aim 0.3 (oz/A)
- Balance Pro (2.2 oz/A) + atrazine 1.5 lb ai/A + 2,4-D (0.5 lb ae/A)
- Callisto (3 oz/A) + atrazine (0.3 lb ai/A)
- Sencor (5 oz/A) + Python (0.8 to 1 oz/A will also provide some lambsquarter and velvetleaf suppression) + 2,4-D (0.5 lb ae/A).  
This can also be used prior to soybean production.

If you also have dandelion in the fields infested with the winter annuals described above, increase the 2,4-D rate to 1 lb ae/A and keep in mind that you will need to wait 30 days before planting soybean.

If dandelion is the primary target, then you should consider waiting to spray until April. Research at OSU has found that the optimal spring treatment for dandelion control is a combination of 2,4-D (1 lb ai/A) and glyphosate (0.75 lb ae/A) applied between April 10 and May 10. If you have fields with heavy infestations, a followup treatment of glyphosate in Roundup Ready soybean or Distinct or 2,4-D in corn will help to further reduce the infestation.

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Information listed here is based on research and outreach/extension programming at Purdue University and elsewhere. The use of trade names is for clarity to readers of this site, does not imply endorsement of a particular brand nor does exclusion imply non-approval. Always consult the herbicide label for the most current and update precautions and restrictions. Copies, reproductions, or transcriptions of this document or its information must bear the statement 'Produced and prepared by Purdue University Extension Weed Science' unless approval is given by the author.