

SOYBEAN WEED CONTROL BEGINS WITH CORN

Would you like to have less weeds showing up in your soybeans? Then look to your corn field.

KOCHIA

Did you know that about 90% of Kochia/Fireweed seeds germinate within a few weeks of each other? Often, they germinate within days of each other, creating a carpet of seedlings that rapidly develop into plants! The best time to control Kochia, and most other broadleaf weeds, is when they are small -less than beer can tall. The remaining 10% rot or germinate across the season, even under mid or late winter snow. What does this mean for you?

What it means for you is to get cleaner soybean fields, you must control Kochia in corn, otherwise the Kochia is going become Tumble Weed.



Figure 1 Figure 120200709112 kochia seedling Kari Neis
Bayer Canada

Obviously, a combine will do a nice job of scattering all the broadleaves weed seeds and the wind will assist. But there are always more Kochia ready to come in from a fence line or a neighbor's field. We can typically see part of the path that the tumbling Kochia top took as it was blown across the field. The bottom line is that every farmer should have a strong broadleaf weed control program running in corn. At AgLand Coop, our Agronomy Representatives can build a

solid weed control program for that can control or at least suppress weeds like Kochia, Tall Water Hemp, Button Weed (a.k.a. Velvet Leaf), Giant Ragweed, and Glyphosate & Triazine Resistant Lambsquarters.

Follow this link for more information about managing Kochia from SDSU Extension:

[Kochia Preplant Burndown Management for 2024](#)

[Tips for Timely Control of Kochia](#)

Tall Waterhemp

Often, we see high populations of Tall Waterhemp (TW) in low lying areas of the field, especially early in the season where there is a good supply of soil moisture. It also likes to be in or near the edge of compacted areas, like headlands and turn rows, that have had ponding resulting from compaction. Most any water course will play host to fast growing TW plants and wherever the water slows down and fans out is a likely spot to find more than a few TW plants.



But just about anywhere in a poorly drained area in a field will permit the establishment of TW seedlings.

Here is a very helpful link about TW from Corteva®:

<https://www.corteva.us/Resources/inputs-and-insights/waterhemp-soybeans.html>

As TW grows, it creates more growing points along the stems and branches. A complete kill of a TW plant requires the herbicide to contact everyone of those growing points. That is very difficult especially

if the TW plants are growing in the soybean row. This makes the use of a residual herbicide as part of the preemergence tank mix followed by a post emergence program that also contains a residual. In some cases, it may be necessary to apply a second post emergence application to control late emerging TW. In future years like 2023, with herbicide activating rain in short supply, it is possible to experience partial failure of weed control programs.

Whatever you do, scout your fields (walk or ride into the field). Once the TW grows past the top of a beer can it can grow faster than 1 ¼ inches per day. Here is a 2017 article from Farm Progress Magazine that lists the 8 things you need to know about Tall Waterhemp:

<https://www.farmprogress.com/weeds/8-facts-you-should-know-about-waterhemp-in-indiana>

At AgLand Coop, we are here to help with situations like this, we encourage you to call and see if your weed control programs need a little “Beefing-Up”.

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