Weeds to Watch for in Manitoba

Tammy Jones, Manitoba Agriculture and Robert H. Gulden, Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba

* NWA — The Noxious Weeds Act of Manitoba • Tier 1 — all plant parts must be destroyed • Tier 2 — destroy or control based on the size of infestation • Tier 3 — control required for infestations causing harm

WILD OAT **Features** Caution · Annual C3 plant • #4 on the 2016 Manitoba Weed Survey · No auricle, with hairs on the leaf margin • Prefers cool weather and moist soil • Panicle with up to 250 awned seeds • Confirmed multiple HR in Manitoba to Groups 1, 2, 8, 14, 15 and 25 • Up to 4 ft. tall • 10 plants/m² can reduce wheat, barley and canola yields • Seeds can remain dormant in the soil for up to eight years by 10% and flax yields by 20% KOCHIA **Features** Caution (Tier 3 NWA*) Annual C4 plant • 21 plants/m² can reduce wheat yield by 33% Hairy alternate leaves • Commonly HR to Group 2 with known Group 4 HR biotypes and widespread HR to Group 9 in Manitoba • Inconspicuous flowers that outcross or self-pollinate • Drought and salinity tolerant • 6 in. to 6 ft .tall • Roots can penetrate up to 10 ft. · Can germinate throughout the summer and produce 15-30,000 seeds/plant REDROOT PIGWEED **Features** Caution • Prolific annual C4 plant • Group 2 HR biotypes in Manitoba • Dull green alternate leaves Alternate host for many insect pests • Rough stem with taproot root structure · Under hot conditions can quickly advance beyond recommended stages for herbicide application • 1 to 3 ft. tall • Indicator species of high nitrogen soils • Seed viable for five years • Germinates at high temps (20-30°C) and will germinate late in summer with adequate soil moisture BIENNIAL WORMWOOD **Features** Caution • #20 on the 2016 Manitoba Weed Survey Annual or biennial plant · Smooth hairless stem with sage-carrot odour • Invades pastures, ditches and crop land · Leaves pinnately divided and redivided • Tolerant to most pre-plant incorporated and pre-emergence herbicides • Up to 6 ft. tall • Highly competitive and prolific, producing up to one million seeds per plant · Germinates in the spring, summer or fall

LAMB'S QUARTERS (Tier 3 NWA*)



Features

- · Annual C3 plant
- Alternate leaves with white mealy particles (wax)
- 2 to 3 ft. tall
- Germinates at low temps
- Averages 72,000 seeds/plant and seeds can survive 30-40 years

Caution

- #14 on the 2016 Manitoba Weed Survey
- Triazine-resistance (Group 5) is common in Ontario
- 200 plants/m² can reduce barley yield by 20–25%
- Produces oxalic acid that is poisonous to sheep and swine in large amounts

TALL WATERHEMP (TIER 1 NWA*)



Features Caution

- Dioecious² annual C4 plant with high genetic diversity
- Smooth stem with glossy leaves
- Up to 8 ft. tall
- Produces up to 500,000 seeds/plant
- Germinates throughout the summer especially in reduced-tillage systems that leave seeds at the soil surface.
- Growth rate is 50–70% greater than many other annual weeds
- Confirmed HR in North Dakota³
- Multiple HR biotypes involving Groups 2, 4, 5, 9, 14, 15 and 27

GIANT RAGWEED (TIER 3 NWA*)



Features

- Annual C3 plant native to North America
- Stems somewhat hairy
- Large opposite leaves, except at ends of branches, mainly 3- or can be 5-lobed, small upper leaves not lobed; leaf surface rough (like sandpaper)
- 16 in. to 13 ft. tall

Caution

- Easily selected for Group 9 HR
- A single plant produces up to one billion pollen grains
- 1 plant/m² can reduce crop yields by 45 to 77%

PALMER AMARANTH (TIER 1 NWA*)



Features

- Dioecious² C4 plant with high genetic diversity and aggressive growth
- Hairless stem
- Alternate ovate leaves with petioles longer than the leaf
- Produces up to one million seeds per female plant
- Up to 7 ft. tall
- Germinates late winter until fall

Caution

- Confirmed HR in North Dakota³
- Very competitive
- HR to multiple Groups including 2, 3, 5, 9, 14, 15 and 27

COMMON RAGWEED (TIER 3 NWA*)



Features

- Annual C3 plant
- Compound finely-divided leaves
- Distinctive inflorescence seed at the base of long clusters of male flowers
- 6 in. to 5 ft. tall with a long taproot
- Produces 3–60,000 seeds which can persist for 80 years

Caution

- Easily selected for Group 9 HR
- Important cause of hay fever, producing a large amount of pollen that can move > 125 miles
- Strong accumulator of N, P, K and many micronutrients
- Seed survives digestion (contaminates manure)

YELLOW FOXTAIL



Features

- Annual C4 plant
- May be highly branched (many tillers)
- Leaf has long hairs at the base and margin surface
- Flowers are dense spike-like panicles with yellow bristles
- Up to 3 ft. tall

Caution

- #6 on the 2016 Manitoba Weed Survey
- Prefers warmer regions
- Causes yield reductions of 16% in wheat, 11% in oats and 15% in soybeans
- Biotypes with HR to Groups 1 and 2 or HR to Group 5

²Dioecious – produces separate male and female plants

¹HR – herbicide-resistant

³See NDSU's new factsheet *Identification, Biology and Control of Palmer Amaranth and Waterhemp* (W1916)