

County Agent News  
Dan Folske  
September 26, 2016



What a great rain! Most if not all of the county received much needed rainfall this past week. While harvest is not complete and there may be some adverse effects on the late wheat and durum crops the rain will not have much effect on the soybeans, corn, flax, canola, and sunflowers still in the field. For Fields where harvest is complete, the rain should get many weed seeds to germinate and get some of the perennial weeds like Canada thistle, field bindweed, common tansy, leafy spurge, and others out of dormancy and growing well. That sets these weeds up for a fall herbicide application where the herbicide will be translocated into the roots to kill the plant, not just burn off the tops.



Headed foxtail barley  
Source: www.ag.ndsu.edu

Another weed which has been a big problem in recent years is foxtail barley. One of the problems with this weed is ability to adapt its life style to fit the conditions. Most weed ID books refer to it as a winter annual however it can be a spring annual or a short lived perennial. A fall herbicide application is perfect for stopping those fall germinating winter annuals and short lived perennials. It won't stop the foxtail barley that chooses to germinate in the spring but at least those plants will be slightly later in maturity and a spring burndown should be effective on them. Spring burndowns often provide poor control of the perennial and winter annual phases of this weed because they get such an early start and glyphosate is weak on them unless they are very small.

Fall burndowns are also very effective on other winter annuals like field pennycress and shepards purse which will often flower and produce seed in the spring before a producer gets out there with a spring burndown or preplant tillage.

Another positive result of a fall burn down is the stopping of the “green bridge”, the living grass plants which can support populations of the wheat curl mites. These are the mites responsible for spreading wheat streak mosaic virus which caused a big problem for some producers this season.

Homeowners and ranchers should also be thinking about controlling those perennial weeds in their lawns, pastures, and hayfields. Now is the perfect timing for dandelion control and many other perennial and biennial weeds.



Source: www.ag.ndsu.edu