

Special points of interest:

- Do you have noxious weeds and are afraid to call the County Weed Director for help? Don't worry, they are much more interested in helping landowners control their weeds than they are with taking regulatory action.

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County Weed Directors – The Best Resource

You have read about your county Weed Director in this newsletter before and I guarantee that you will read about them again. Because of this, I felt it would be helpful to give you a little background on who they are, what they do and why they are there.

Since the first modern noxious weed law in 1937, County Weed Directors have been tasked to



“render every possible assistance and direction for the most effective control and eradication” to the landowners in his or her district. This means that in addition to being required by law to offer cost share herbicides and necessary equipment for the control of noxious weeds, they are available to provide advice and recommendations as to the best and most efficient methods for controlling noxious weeds. And, although it falls outside their official duties, they often know quite a bit about non-noxious weeds as well.

A lot of the Weed Directors are farmers and ranchers

in addition to their duties with the county so they know what you are going through. They are aware of the harm noxious weeds can do to a crop field or pasture and of the expense and effort that has to go into controlling them. Because of this, they are very willing to work with all of the landowners in the county to find a way to manage their weed issues.



Big Developments in the War on Tamarisk

As you read in this newsletter last year, a biological control agent known as *Diorhabda* or Tamarisk Leaf Beetle has moved into the Cimarron River watershed and is feeding on the invasive tamarisk trees.

Since then the KDA, the K-State Research and Extension Service and the Tamarisk Coalition have conducted surveys in both the Cimarron and Arkansas River basins. These surveys have identified *Diorhabda* bee-

tles from Rice County west to Hamilton County.

While the numbers being found throughout the Arkansas drainage have been very small, there is every reason to believe that they will steadily increase until the insects become dormant for the winter in October and again after they emerge in April or May.

Another development this year is the discovery of another species of biological

control for tamarisk. The Splendid Tamarisk Weevil (*Coniatus splendidulus*) was first found in Clark County in June but since then it has been found in many of the same locations as *Diorhabda*. The weevil does not do nearly as much damage as the beetle but then, any amount will help.



Integrated Weed Management: Part 6 - Control Overview

We have now gotten to the point of the Integrated Weed Management series that deals with the methods available for the control of weeds. This section is composed of four subsections; Biological, Chemical, Cultural and Mechanical. In the next four newsletters I will discuss each of these methods in further detail. I will discuss which of our noxious weeds are most and least susceptible to each method. By the end of the series you should have an understanding of all of the options available to you.

Some of them are more expensive (chemical) than others while some are

more labor intensive (mechanical). Some also have a more immediate return than others.

Keep in mind that not all of these methods of control are available for every species of weed. For example, all four of the methods can be used to control Musk Thistle while *Sericea Lespedeza* has no biological control agents available at this time and mechanical control methods are not very effective for Field Bindweed.

When more than one control method is available for a particular weed, it is a very good idea to combine two or more of them to in-

crease the effectiveness of each other. An example of this is with *Sericea Lespedeza*. Mowing (mechanical) alone will actually increase the number of plants in an

area while mowing followed up with the application of an herbicide (chemical) will reduce the number of plants more than spraying alone.



Control Corner: Herbicide Resistant Weeds

If an herbicide works, stick with it, right? Not really. If you use one herbicide year after year to control the same weeds you may be hurting yourself more than the weeds. Since 1964 farmers in Kansas have been finding it harder and harder to kill some weeds. The herbicides are not getting weaker, the plants are adapting to the chemicals in the herbicides.

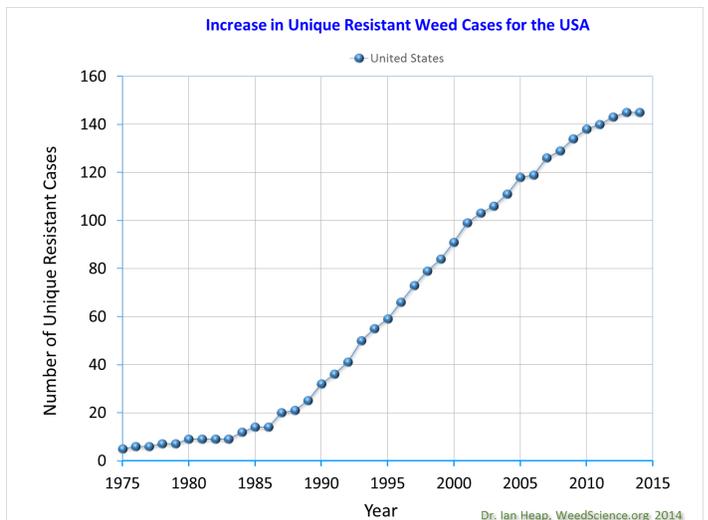
Why is this an issue? Mostly because once a common and aggressive weed becomes fully resistant to an herbicide, that herbicide is no longer available as an option. Imagine an inex-

pensive general use chemical that you use all the time no longer working.

As more and more farmers move to adopt no-till practices, the use of herbicides increases. That, along with the increased availability and use of herbicide resistant crops is one of the most critical causes for the increase in herbicide resistance. When this resistance makes the use of a single herbicide easier and cheaper to use, it is harder to justify using anything else, right? The potential for resistance is that justification.

The best ways to prevent the weeds in your fields from becoming resistant is to alternate the herbicides

you use and to use a pre-emergent to reduce the number of weeds that germinate.





Plant Protection and Weed Control

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Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

Our mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantined pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

Invasive Species Spotlight

Teasel (*Dipsacus* sp.)

Currently in Kanas there are two invasive species of teasel, common (*D. fullo-num*) and cutleaf (*D. lacini-atus*). While there are dif-ferences between the two, for our purposes they can be treated the same.

Natives of Europe, they were first introduced into the United States in the 1800s. Back then they were a desir-able species and were cul-tivated for

their use in carding wool in preparation for spinning. In the 1900s the dried seed heads became popu-lar in floral arrange-ments.

Often misidentified as thistles, teasels grow in much the same areas as this-tles and are tall, spiny plants. With a closer look the differences become more obvious. The teasels usually grow be-tween 4 to 5 feet but can often reach 7 feet. The flower head is quite differ-



ent from a thistle in that teasel flowers grow on an upright, oval-shaped head at the top of a long, mostly leafless stem. While they are technically perennials, they grow as biennials. The dif-ference is that they may spend more than one year as a rosette.

Controlling teasels is fairly easy if done before the populations become too extensive. Because they act as biennials, the growing stems can be dug up or mown down before

seed pro-duction. If the number of plants is too large for mechanical controls, Glyphosate, 2,4-D or Triclopyr have been found to be effective herbicides during active growth or the dormant season.



The largest threat to spread is mowing the plants after the seeds have set. This increases seed dispersal to new areas.