

Extension Responds: Flood

Weeds of Wet Weather

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The recent “monsoon season” will affect the weeds we see on the landscape.

Sites with weeds adapted to wet conditions have the potential to see high populations of these species. Examples include yellow nutsedge, horsetail, plants in the buckwheat family (the smartweeds, wild buckwheat, knotweeds and curly dock), barnyardgrass, stinging nettle and wild cucumber.

Management of each will depend upon the site where they appear. The weed of wet soils with the fewest management options is horsetail. It is usually only of concern in no-till systems. Horsetail plants that appear in tilled fields planted to corn seldom result in economic losses, especially if an in-crop cultivation can be done. In no-till corn or soybeans, options are few (corn) to none (soybeans).

Glyphosate has essentially no effect horsetail so even in Roundup Ready crops, this is not an option. In corn, consider applying Beacon plus 2,4-D or NorthStar to achieve at least some activity on horsetail.

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