

MAKING A DIFFERENCE *for Iowans*

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A Weekly Column from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Week of July 20, 2015

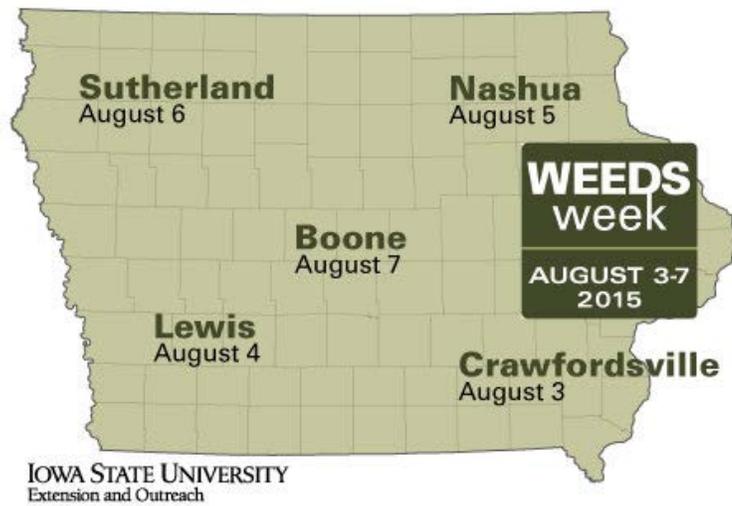
For Immediate Release

“Weeds Week”

Joel DeJong, Field Agronomist

About four years ago this September I was working with ISU Weed Specialist Mike Owen on a project where he wanted us to collect waterhemp seeds from soybean fields that had a lot of weed escapes. At that time we were just hearing about a few fields where the most commonly used herbicide program used was starting to miss some weeds. This was not a random survey – these seeds came from soybean fields that had escapes in September, and on the referral from people who thought their fields (crops) had developed herbicide resistance. Therefore, if resistance was present these were the fields likely to have the problem.

Dr. Owen and his research team grew these seeds into small plants and treated these weeds with herbicides at about 4” to 6” heights. He looked at 1X and 4X rates of herbicides from five different families of products. Of the 50 samples I pulled from the western/northwestern Iowa counties, 98% of these were resistant to the 4X rate of the ALS family product used, 88% to the atrazine 4X rate, and 46% resistant to the 4X rate of glyphosate applied. Seems to me we had a problem in 2011 and from observing the number of soybean fields “toasted”



by herbicides this year, the resistance issue has spread.

In response, ISU Extension and Outreach is offering workshops across Iowa during the first week of August to take a closer look at how we can combat this problem. We have titled it “Weeds Week.” The date in northwest Iowa is Thursday, Aug. 6 at the ISU Northwest Research Farm near Calumet in southern O’Brien County. Workshops will be educational programs for farmers and retailers with a focus on understanding weed resistance and a hands-on, practical approach to developing long-term weed management plans that work.

Our goals are to evaluate the herbicide sites of action that are effective on the weeds present, develop a long-term weed management plan that can be implemented the following year, understand the importance of cultural and mechanical options in a diverse program, and recognize the importance of developing field-specific management programs. Each session is a combination of presentations, small group discussions, problem solving, and hands-on planning through a series of worksheets and materials developed for Weeds Week.

Extension and Outreach field agronomists lead sessions. Each location also features tours of demonstration plots established to support the goals and objectives of the Weeds Week program. Two sessions are scheduled at each location – one for farmers (morning) and a second for agribusiness, industry and retail representatives (afternoon). Each group receives similar information, but presented with the different focus of designing the plans for your own fields or supporting customers and clients in developing and designing their plans. The session costs \$25 and registration is due by Aug. 2 for the northwest Iowa session.

Contact your local Extension and Outreach office for more details or check out the information page online at www.aep.iastate.edu/weeds.

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