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### **Noxious Weeds**

Have you noticed the amount of problem weeds? How could you not notice, they are everywhere. The problem continues to grow just like the weeds. With this thought in mind I have included a recent CORN newsletter post from OSU Extension Weed Specialist, Dr. Mark Loux concerning the Noxious Weed Law in Ohio.

The potential for Ohio to become infested with Palmer amaranth has led to some interesting discussions about our noxious weed law in recent meetings where I have been a presenter. With regard to new weed problems such as Palmer amaranth, the gist of the discussion has been how the law can be used to stop the spread of new infestations. This includes how to force landowners to prevent it from going to seed in crop fields or idle land, and how to make sure that the entities responsible for mowing of roadsides do the same. I have to say that after serving in my current position for the last 26 years, I still do not have a good idea of how effective the law is. Many of the plants on the noxious weed list are abundant throughout Ohio. The current list includes:

Russian thistle, Shattercane, Johnsongrass, Wild parsnip, Wild carrot, Oxeye daisy, Wild mustard, Canada thistle, Poison hemlock, Cressleaf groundsel, Musk thistle, Purple loosestrife, Mile-a-minute vine, Giant hogweed, Apple of Peru, Horseweed (maretail), Kochia, Palmer amaranth, Kudzu, Japanese knotweed and Grapevines, when growing in groups of one hundred or more and not pruned, sprayed, cultivated or otherwise maintained for two consecutive years.

Weeds have been designated as noxious here in Ohio for various reasons including toxicity to humans or animals (poison hemlock, cressleaf groundsel), invasiveness (kudzu), negative impact on natural areas (mile a minute vine, purple loosestrife), and potential to cause economic loss (palmer amaranth, apple of Peru). Some were added because they have been extremely problematic in other areas of the country, and the goal is to prevent establishment here (Russian thistle, musk thistle). Canada thistle was added so that federal agencies could allow early-summer mowing of CREP and similar areas in order to prevent seed production. I don't know what the deal with the grapevines is but someone had a good reason I guess.

There are several components to the law that accomplish the following: 1) mandates that township trustees and others responsible for roadside vegetation control will use mowing or other methods often enough to control noxious weeds; and 2) provides township trustees the authority to control noxious weeds after a landowner or other controlling interest (including Department of Natural Resources and the state) has been notified and will not, and bill the landowner for the cost of control. Specific questions about the noxious weed law should be directed to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Details of the law can be found by doing a web search on "Ohio noxious weed law".

### **Bagworms Munching!**

If you have had problems with Bagworms in the past, you may want to read this from OSU's Bug Doc, Dr. Dave Shetlar. The Bug Doc writes a newsletter, available with a subscription, weekly during the summer months. This information appeared in a new release a few years ago. There is also an OSU Factsheet written by Dr. Shetlar

Virtually all the bagworm eggs have now hatched out and the little larvae are through ballooning about (the process of them spinning out strands of silk and being picked up in the wind). The ones in central Ohio are still less than 3/8-inch long and would be susceptible to BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) sprays. However, they will soon need something a bit stronger! Traditional treatments for this pest have been carbaryl (Sevin) or acephate (Orthene), since the loss of Dursban. However, I prefer people using one of the pyrethroids. In this case, pick any

of the pyrethroids (beta-cyfluthrin, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, deltamethrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, or permethrin) and use the lowest label rate!

Be sure to thoroughly cover trees (especially spruce, juniper and white pine) as the tiny larvae can be hard to spot on the undersides of leaves or in the interior of a conifer. It is better to treat now because the larvae are able to force pupate (begin changing into the adult form) and avoid contact with pesticides in mid to late July - just when most people begin to "suddenly" discover the bags!

### **Tomato Problems**

I received several calls on Monday concerning tomato problems. This has become a common theme over the past few years. There are several things happening. In recent years there have been blights among other problems. Often the best defense is the use of varieties that have resistance. Using several varieties with resistance to different problems might be a good idea if you have been dealing with problems for a few years. Another good idea would be to start your own plants from seed.

Blossom End Rot has also shown up. This is a disorder that may be caused by too much or not enough water. The real problem is a lack of calcium uptake. The symptoms include a dark sunken soft spot on the bottom of the fruit.

For more information you can stop by your local OSU Extension office or go to Ohioline. The factsheets are available by searching at <http://ohioline.osu.edu>

### **Dates to Remember**

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| July 1 | Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development informational meeting at Southern Hills Career Center in Georgetown, starting at 1:30 p.m. |
| July 2 | Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development informational meeting at the Adams County Fairgrounds in West Union starting at 6:00 p.m.  |

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