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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Spring May Actually Be Here

As I type this on the first day of May, it appears that spring may actually be here with warm temperatures in the forecast and some planting starting to take place. In addition to the delayed field work for crop fields there are other concerns, too. Several producers have mentioned to me that the pastures have not seemed to take off just yet. For many, they are more than ready to turn livestock out to graze. For some they are tired of feeding hay, for others they are out of hay.

With spring comes the busy time of spraying, planting, applying fertilize and the list seems to go on and on. This actually could be a statement for a producer who raises 1000 acres of corn or someone with a small lawn that likes to have lots of landscaping. Either way, it can keep you busy.

Speaking of that endless list of things to do with the weather improving, do not forget to take care of the bees. That statement can have many meanings regarding bees. If you think about it from a honeybee side of things, protect the bees. If insecticides have to be used, try to not use them when the plants are in flower. If you spray later in the day, after the honeybees are out foraging, there is less risk. When neighbors have honeybee hives, good communication is a plus. If everyone knows the bees are there, steps can be taken to protect the bees. COMMUNICATION between the beekeeper and surrounding neighbors is a two way street.

The other thought I had when it comes to taking care of the bees is getting ready for Carpenter Bees. I have noticed a few on warmer days. They can be destructive to buildings as they bore into the wood and make tunnels. There options for controlling these bees, or at least some steps to reduce the damage. There are good factsheets available from several Land Grant Universities including Ohio State and Kentucky.

Traps are another option for the Carpenter Bees. There are designs on how to build them online, or stop by the office and we can print one out for you. The traps are also available at local farm and garden stores.

Speaking of traps, I often get calls about how to get rid of moles. There is not a good answer for that question, but traps are the most effective. There is a good website that discusses moles, (themoleman.com) and several ways to control them, unfortunately traps are still your best bet. When I get calls often about moles and when I mention traps there is silence on the other end. They can't set the traps. The spear type traps are somewhat difficult to set. However, I was in Carrington's Farm Supply in Georgetown recently and noticed a different kind of mole trap on the shelf. Other stores most likely have them, too. However, this looked to be much simpler to set. An easier mole trap might be a great idea for this spring.



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Adjusting No-Till Burndown with Cool Wet Spring

Dr. Mark Loux, OSU Extension Weed Specialist has put this information together as we move into May and not much has been done to this point, when it comes to weed control. The full article appears in this week's C.O.R.N newsletter that can be found at <http://corn.osu.edu> or stop by the office for a copy.

This is a revision of an article we seem to publish in C.O.R.N. about every three years, when wet weather prevents early planting, and in some cases also prevents early burndown applications. Not a lot of either has occurred yet, although it's starting to dry out and warm up. The good news is that cool weather has slowed weed growth, but even so, the weeds obviously continue to get bigger under wet conditions, and what is a relatively tame burndown situation in early to mid-April can become pretty hairy by early to mid May. One issue with later burndowns certainly is that there can be a need for a more aggressive herbicide mix, but also a need to plant as soon as possible, and these can be conflicting goals. For example, unless dicamba is an option, we would say keep 2,4-D ester in the mix if at all possible, but this means waiting 7 days to plant.

Marestail is always one of the bigger concerns in a late burndown situation, especially overwintered plants in fields that were not treated last fall. Many of the other weeds, even if bigger, are still relatively well controlled by minor modifications to standard burndown programs (e.g. higher glyphosate rates, adding another herbicide). Overwintered marestail get tougher to control with increased size and age, to the point that they will reach a size and age where a mixture of glyphosate and 2,4-D often won't work. Substituting Sharpen for the 2,4-D can improve control usually, but even this combination is not infallible as marestail gets larger. Also – we have observed some weakness from the glyphosate/Sharpen combination on dandelion, purple deadnettle, and larger giant ragweed. The more effective approach is to combine all three herbicides – glyphosate, 2,4-D and Sharpen.

Mark listed several additional tips in this article. Again, if you can't access the webpage, stop the local OSU Extension Office and pick up a copy.

Dates to Remember

Apr. 14

Ohio Tobacco Museum Raffle, Ripley Elem. School, meal at 6:30, draw 7:30