

Donovan Carpenter,
President

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2011 Year in Review

I think most of you can relate to the following words when summing up the 2011 spray season – it was a tough year for weed control. The spring presented many challenges with the cool, wet weather that we started the growing season off with. Then we experienced the winds. Not only did wind affect our weed control efforts. This summer we experienced some of the hottest, humid weather than we have had for a very long time. Weed control in these conditions were made almost impossible. So a lot of people got out their mowers and decided to wait until fall to get that spraying done. If there is one thing that we have learned in South Dakota – remember – this is South Dakota. And when we were too wet this spring, this fall has started off quite dry. Hard to believe that they are now saying that this past month was one of the driest Septembers on record. So all of our hard work to set up for fall spraying has now got another challenge – dry conditions. With those dry conditions, now we need to re-assess whether spraying now will do the job or if we should wait until next spring. One thing is for sure – spraying roadsides and pastures in June will continue to be difficult at times. With so many areas now being cropped, the acres of soybeans, corn and sunflowers will only continue to increase. Soybeans seem to be our biggest challenge right now in right-of-way spraying. The only advice anyone can offer is to “be careful” when spraying in areas with soybeans. On a little better note - some of the low areas that you weren’t able to get to this past spring may now be accessible. Be sure to check those areas this fall. You may be surprised to see some thistle looking pretty green in those areas. So be sure to check areas previously set up for fall spraying. If you happen to have caught a little rain – you may be surprised that there are still some noxious weeds to be sprayed yet this fall. Good luck with fall spraying and we will see you at District Meetings.

Reports Are Due

The Annual Inspection Reports are due in to Pierre by November 1. For the new supervisors these reports are the number of acres of the various weeds you have in your county. The fiscal and annual activity reports are due in by January 31. To be eligible for a competitive grant these reports must be turned in.

Thanks to those counties that have their reports in.

Call for Grants

The call for grants went out Monday, October 3. If you haven’t received a grant packet by next Monday let us know. You must also have two people at the district meeting and the annual conference to qualify for a grant - one person at the conference will let you qualify for only half of the basic grant. **If you can’t attend your District Meeting you may attend one in another district.** See inside for a list of the counties by district.

Meeting Places for District Meetings

District 1 - November 9th
 Deuel County 4-H Center
 47625 181st Street
 Clear Lake SD.
 N end of town E ¼ Mile
 Motel Lake View 874-8279

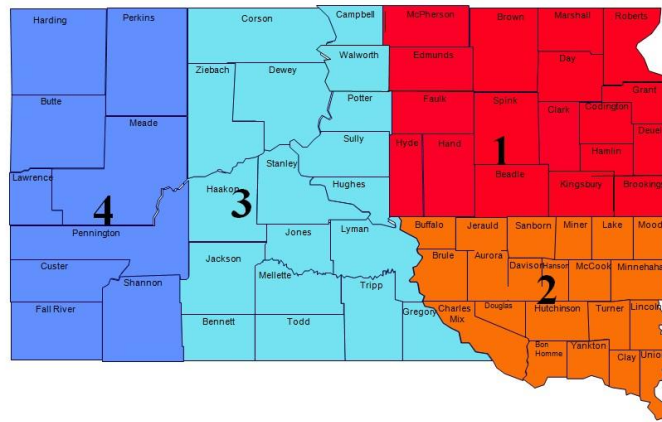
District 2 - November 10th
 The Depot
 210 S. Main
 Mitchell SD.
 South end of main street or 7 blocks south of the
 Corn Palace.

District 3 - October 31st
 McClelland's
 902 Walleye Dr.
 Fort Pierre, SD
 North of Fort Pierre on the way to the Oahe Dam

District 4 - November 1st
 Outdoor Learning Center
 4130 Adventure Trail
 Rapid City
 Take I 90 exit 52 towards Black Hawk
 4.6 miles S. on SD 79
 Turn Right on Adventure Trail

We would like a head count for meals. Please notify Gary at gpribyl@santel.net or call 605-354-1989 as to which meeting you plan to attend. **All meeting will start with registrations at 8:30 local time.** The agenda will be available on line at sdweedandpest.com when available.

SOUTH DAKOTA WEED & PEST DISTRICTS



District 1
 Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin, Hand, Hyde, Kingsbury, Marshall, McPherson, Roberts, and Spink

District 2
 Aurora, Bon Homme, Brule, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Clay, Davison, Douglas, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Sanborn, Turner, Union, and Yankton

District 3
 Bennett, Campbell, Corson, Dewey, Gregory, Haakon, Hughes, Jackson, Jones, Lyman, Mellette, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Todd, Tripp, Walworth, and Ziebach

District 4
 Butte, Custer, Fall River, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Perkins, and Shannon

Dry conditions and thistle control

I have been getting some questions on the effects of the current dry conditions and Canada thistle control. The soils may be dry enough in many areas to reduce thistle control. It is difficult to speculate what the effect may be, but perhaps control could be 10 – 20% less than a spring application. Higher herbicide rates and the use of surfactants may improve control slightly, but I suspect not by much (although I would certainly recommend using higher rates and surfactants at this time if applications are going out). Using a potent herbicide such as Milestone or ForeFront could minimize reductions in control relative to a more general maintenance herbicide such as Grazon. To assess the potential for good control yet this fall, I would look for two things:

1. Regrowth: The success of fall applications is very dependent on fall thistle growth. We have been monitoring Canada thistle shoot emergence at one location at Brookings and have not seen many new shoots emerge since the end of August. Therefore, the combination of dry conditions and thick grass canopies could inhibit fall herbicide activity.
2. Condition of thistle leaves: Herbicides may be effective as long as the thistle leaves are still green. Frost has been light so far in many areas, so older thistle growth is still somewhat green in many areas which will allow herbicide uptake even if the fall regrowth is limited. In general, Canada thistle control will begin to decline as thistle leaves become more brown from frost and drought. However, you still may be able to get about 60% thistle control next year if using Milestone or ForeFront even if the thistles are nearly completely brown. I would not recommend doing that, but perhaps this demonstrates that some control may be coming from root uptake so you will likely get some control even if leaves are highly damaged.

Generally our studies have indicated Canada thistle control is more consistent with spring applications than fall applications because grass canopies are often shorter in the spring and soil moisture is more plentiful. If thistle leaves are still green, there still may be some potential for control yet this fall even though the dry conditions may decrease efficacy a little.

Dry conditions may influence control of other pasture weeds as well. We may see more emergence of biennial thistles, such as plumeless and bull thistle, in the spring if dry conditions this fall inhibited normal fall germination. In my opinion, fall applications of herbicides such as Milestone, ForeFront, or Tordon/Grazon will not provide much residual activity to control spring emerging biennial thistles. Absinth wormwood control may be fine yet since it has such a large taproot. We had great wormwood control this year from late fall applications last year, so there may be plenty of time to wait on the absinth wormwood if people would like to wait for more moisture or wait for tree leaves to fall if applying herbicides around trees.

Hope this helps in case these questions comes up. Let me know if you have additional questions.

Thanks,

Mike Moechnig, Extension Weed Specialist, South Dakota State University

President's report

With fall now here and everyone getting crops out of the field and finishing up fall spraying it is time to reflect back on the summer and what we accomplished. This year we had great attendance at our booths at the fairs, stock shows and Dakotafest. The location for this year's weed and pest tour was in the Black Hills. This tour was very educational. We were able to see some of the problems they are having with Russian Olive, we also looked at Phragmites problems and control along the rivers systems, and we saw the problems that they are having with mountain pine beetle. We also looked at many other problems and concerns with weeds and pests in the Black Hills. I would like to say thank you to all of the people that were involved with all the events we had this summer. Don't forget about the upcoming District Meetings and our annual conference being held in Rapid City February 22-24 2012. I look forward to seeing you all there. Donovan Carpenter

2011 Grasshopper Update:

Grasshopper densities in the western part of the state have presented some interesting results compared to what was anticipated. As many will recall from our grasshopper surveys last year, we saw unprecedented grasshopper densities. We fielded calls from all over the western part of the state regarding grasshoppers. The plentiful moisture helped minimize forage loss, but many of the crops were being impacted, principally from the Two-striped grasshopper. Thus, we expected the worse again in 2011, and anticipated numerous calls for our crop protection program. These programs specifically allow for us to treat federally managed rangeland next to crop land to prevent grasshopper migration to the crop. Due to the abundant moisture that seemed to effectively mitigate many of the early hatching species, the 2011 surveys showed very little activity early on. As the summer progressed, we saw both a reduced and delayed hatch of many of the early hatching species, and a delayed hatch of the intermediate and late hatching species. However, the more summer progressed and the more the rangeland dried; the crops, once again, became vulnerable. Since APHIS programs are designed principally for rangeland, the increased moisture early on allowed for sufficient forage for most producers to meet their ranching needs. As usual, the grasshoppers looked bad by the numbers visually seen crossing the roads in some areas. After follow up, sightings like those have never been shown to represent a large scale outbreak and are likely due to the grasshoppers preying on each other to fulfill moisture requirements. We did not conduct any control programs in 2011; 74,396 acres were treated in 2010.

Summary

The adult surveys showed high grasshopper populations on both the Pine Ridge , Cheyenne River. Standing Rock and Rosebud Reservations. With the current extended fall weather that allows for extended egg laying, we believe there is a strong likelihood of control programs in 2012 for the Pine Ridge ans Cheyenne River Reservations. We have met with both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and several producers on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to discuss control strategies in 2012.

Bruce Helbig, APHIS

Calendar of Events

October

1. Complete fall weed control program.
2. Follow-up with non-cooperators to achieve fall treatment.
3. Stress use of clean seed.
4. Speak to interested groups explaining your work.
5. Update weed and pest maps.
6. Update file on non-cooperators.
7. Complete and distribute annual inspection report.
8. Complete fall pocket gopher and prairie dog control programs.
9. Continue inspection for mountain pine beetle infestations.

November

1. Talk to adult classes and school, farm and other civic groups.
2. Identify noncooperative landowners and operators based on past season's work. Begin developing plan of action to gain compliance.

3. Develop community and neighborhood organization plans.
4. Encourage use of clean seed.
5. Attend the District Weed & Pest Meeting
6. Inspection report available for public use. (Nov. 1).
7. Hold county-wide planning meetings.
8. Complete inspection for mountain pine beetle infestations.

December

1. Begin preparation of annual report.
2. Update inspection/inventory records and files.
3. Identify non-cooperative landowners and operators based on past season's work. Begin developing plan of action to gain compliance.
4. Speak to interested organizations.
5. Begin treatment of mountain pine beetle infestations.