Marestail control in winter wheat, 2011

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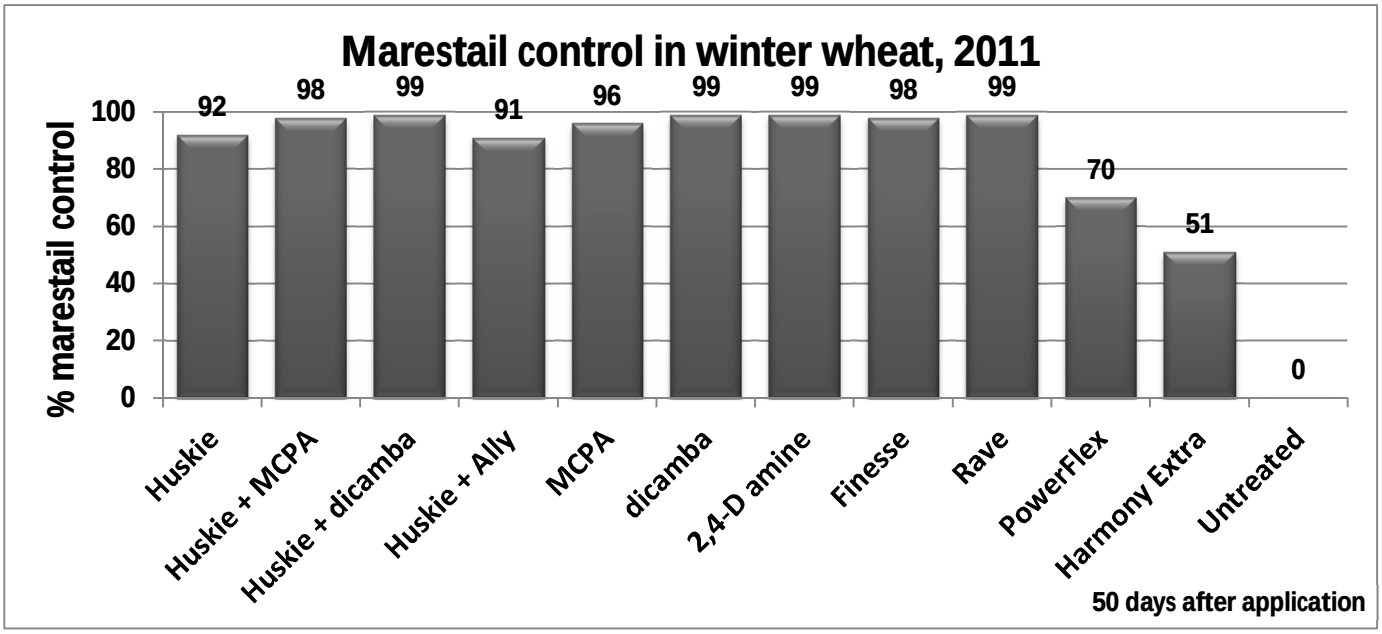
Marestail, also known as horseweed or mule's tail, has become an increasingly difficult weed to control in winter wheat and no-till production systems. In 2011, a study was conducted in Caddo County to determine the most effective postemergence options to control marestail in winter wheat. Treatments were applied on March 2nd when marestail plants were in the rosette growth stage and approximately 1-3 inches in diameter.

A small marestail plant still in the rosette growth stage.

Huskie® (11 fl oz/acre), and combinations that included Huskie, provided at least 91% control of marestail 50 days after application (Figure 1). MCPA (12 fl oz), 2,4-D amine (12 fl oz), dicamba (4 fl oz), Finesse® (0.4 oz), and Rave® (4 oz—a pre-mix of Amber® and dicamba) also provided excellent control of marestail. Harmony Extra® (0.6 oz) and PowerFlex® (3.5 oz) are both effective on many broadleaf weeds such as henbit and mustards, but controlled marestail at only 51% and 70%, respectively.

To achieve the greatest marestail control, herbicide treatments should be applied when plants are still in the rosette growth stage and before they have bolted, or started their upward growth. This timing will likely occur sometime from mid-February through early-March.



Control was evaluated on a scale of 0 to 99%, where 0 = no weed control and 99 = complete control of all marestail in the plot.

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