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# Extension Extra

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## Canada Thistle: Best Bets for Fall

*by Leon Wrage, Extension Weed Specialist*

Canada thistle became a more serious problem across South Dakota in 1993. Old patches became larger and more vigorous; new patches appeared where it wasn't found before.

Fall control programs and planning for 1994 can help regain some "lost" ground.

Suggestions are listed below:

1. **CORN - Brown silk.** Apply 1 lb/A 2,4-D after dough or brown silk stage in corn. Some fields have heavy new shoot growth. Will also reduce seed production on late season cocklebur or sunflower. Check product label.
2. **HERBICIDE - Fall regrowth.** Best results will be where thistles were mowed in July or early August or in fields tilled in early season. Adequate regrowth is less likely in late harvested grain stubble or unplanted fields that were tilled recently. Spot treatments include Tordon, Banvel or Roundup; use lower rates in combination with 2,4-D or 2,4-D alone for broadcast programs. Require active, heavy regrowth shoot for best results. Use lower cost treatments if regrowth is marginal. Refer to label for crop rotation, rate and other precautions.
3. **CULTIVATION.** Tillage with sweep equipment is useful alone or as a late fall follow-up to herbicides. May add 15 to 40% control. Avoid tillage at least 7 days after herbicide application.
4. **PREPARE FOR ALFALFA.** Alfalfa is an excellent crop to use in a thistle control program; however the weeds should be weakened with 2 or 3 fall tillage operations or herbicides such as Roundup and/or 2,4-D. Start this fall in fields to be seeded next spring.

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