

Challenging weed

Marestail (or horseweed) can be a challenge throughout the growing season. Its presence limits soybean yields, and each plant can generate up to 200,000 wind-dispersible seeds. Marestail tends to emerge twice during the growing season, either from late March through June or during the late summer through late autumn.

Enlist E3[®] soybeans, which are tolerant to 2,4-D choline, glyphosate and glufosinate, provide multiple ways to control marestail – even though common strains of the weed have developed resistance to glyphosate or ALS-inhibiting Group 2 herbicides. The weed is easiest to control at the seedling or rosette stage, and burndown herbicides should be used before bolting occurs (usually late March in southern states to late April in northern states).

When planting Enlist E3 soybeans, management suggestions include:

- The use of a fall-applied herbicide with a winter weed control component or an early-spring herbicide in fields with a known problem.
- Spring tillage or burndown application of products such as Elevore[®] herbicide with Arylex[™] active, intended for use with resistant weeds.
- Application of a residual use herbicide containing active ingredients like flumioxazin or sulfamethazine, such as Kyber[™], Sonic[®], Surveil[®], Trivence[®] or EverpreX[®] also has been recommended to target multiple modes of action.
- Post-emergence application of an Enlist[®] herbicide or herbicide combination. This could include herbicides, such as Enlist Duo[®], Enlist One[®], EverpreX[®], Durango[®] or Liberty[®], which are recommended for controlling horseweed sprouts that emerge following planting.

Weed control trials done in 2020 examined how well Enlist One, Liberty[®] and Durango herbicides controlled marestail at different weed heights. The study found the combination of Enlist One and Liberty[®] herbicides provided the best control when weeds were either 3–4 inches or 6–8 inches high. Both Liberty[®] herbicide applied alone and Enlist One with Durango herbicides performed well with smaller weeds, but control declined when weeds were taller.*

*2020 Trial Results: Enlist One, Liberty and Durango, Impact of Herbicide and Weed Height. Corteva Agriscience data on file.



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