

Herbicide Resistance – Act Now Before It's Too Late

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Herbicide-resistant weeds are a growing concern for farmers in the Canadian prairies. Currently, Canada is home to the third largest number of unique herbicide-resistant weed biotypes, surpassed only by the United States and Australia. Recent 2014-2017 estimates suggest that herbicide-resistant weeds infest about 9.6 Million hectares in the Canadian prairie region, equivalent to 35% of total cultivated land area. This estimate has grown from 7.7 Million hectares (29% of total area) in 2007-2009, and 1.0 Million hectares (4% of total area) in 2001-2003. Herbicide-resistant weeds cost prairie farmers an estimated \$530 Million annually in increased herbicide usage, and decreased crop yields and quality. Perhaps of greatest concern in Manitoba are recent infestations of glyphosate-resistant weeds that have plagued the United States for over a decade. Recent discoveries of palmer amaranth and waterhemp are concerning for Manitoba farmers, where infestations of these species are likely to increase in the near future. Recent surveys have documented rapid increase in glyphosate-resistant kochia in Manitoba, and also the discovery of kochia resistant to three herbicide modes-of-action. This session will cover the current status of herbicide-resistant weeds that are of immediate interest to Manitoba farmers and agronomists, and provide insight into their mitigation and management.