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## The Importance of a Fall Burndown for Troublesome Weeds

As reduced tillage practices, such as no-till and strip-tilling, become more popular across Ontario for benefits that they bring to soil health, producers adopting these practices are dealing with a different spectrum of weeds than producers who still use a fair amount of tillage on their farms. Perennial weeds, such as Canada thistle, Dandelion and Perennial sow-thistle, are becoming challenges to farmers who use reduced tillage practices. This is because these minimal tillage practices favour weeds that reproduce from underground stems or roots because these parts of the weed are not mechanically destroyed by tillage implements.

One other weed that has caught the eye of farmers in Ontario this year is Wild carrot. It's a weed that fell off the radar for some because of the use of group 2 chemistries in a spring herbicide program, but it has crept up in many fields again. It most often starts in the ditch banks and works its way into fields from there. Wild carrot is classified as a biennial weed, meaning that it needs 2 growing seasons to complete its lifecycle; in the first year it sleeps (vegetative growth only) and in the second year it leaps (reproductive structures, such as flowers, are produced – this is the case for 2019).



Figure 1 – With reduced tillage practices, perennial (such as Canada thistle and Dandelion) and biennial (such as Wild carrot) weeds are becoming more of a challenge for Ontario producers

The one commonality between these weeds is that they are easily managed with a fall burndown application. Fall is the time of year that these weeds are bringing sugars and photosynthates into their roots to allow for winter survival. Knowing this, a herbicide is also carried into the growing point of the weed during this time of the year. To make the most out of your fall burndown, allow for some regrowth on these challenging weeds after harvest. With short stubble and dust, your herbicide may not be as effective as a weed with some growth to it. Research has also shown that burndowns can take place as late as early December, **but let temperature be your guide (regardless of the calendar date)**– you want to have at least 5°C so that the weeds are still actively growing. Of course, watch for frost warnings and plan accordingly for herbicide applications 24-48 hours after a frost event.

## Options Available to Producers

While there are many herbicide options out there, here are a few options available to you:

Herbicide	Distinct + Glyphosate	Dicamba	Blackhawk + Glyphosate	2,4-D + Glyphosate
Why choose this option?	Pairing these two products together gives you the complete package for fall weed control. The diflufenzopyr helps the dicamba in Distint to translocate into growing points of weeds like Canada thistle and Wild carrot.	Great to use for burning off red clover that was underseeded to your 2019 wheat crop. Products like Engenia, FeXapan or Xtendimax fall into this group	This tank mix offers 3 modes of action (group 14, 4 & 9) for tough to control weeds like cocklebur and any mustard family weeds.	Preformulated together in Enlist Duo (2,4-D choline & glyphosate), this product gives you the best option when looking for low volatility and effective control. You can always create your own mix with 2,4-D ester & glyphosate.