Marestail control in winter wheat, 2011

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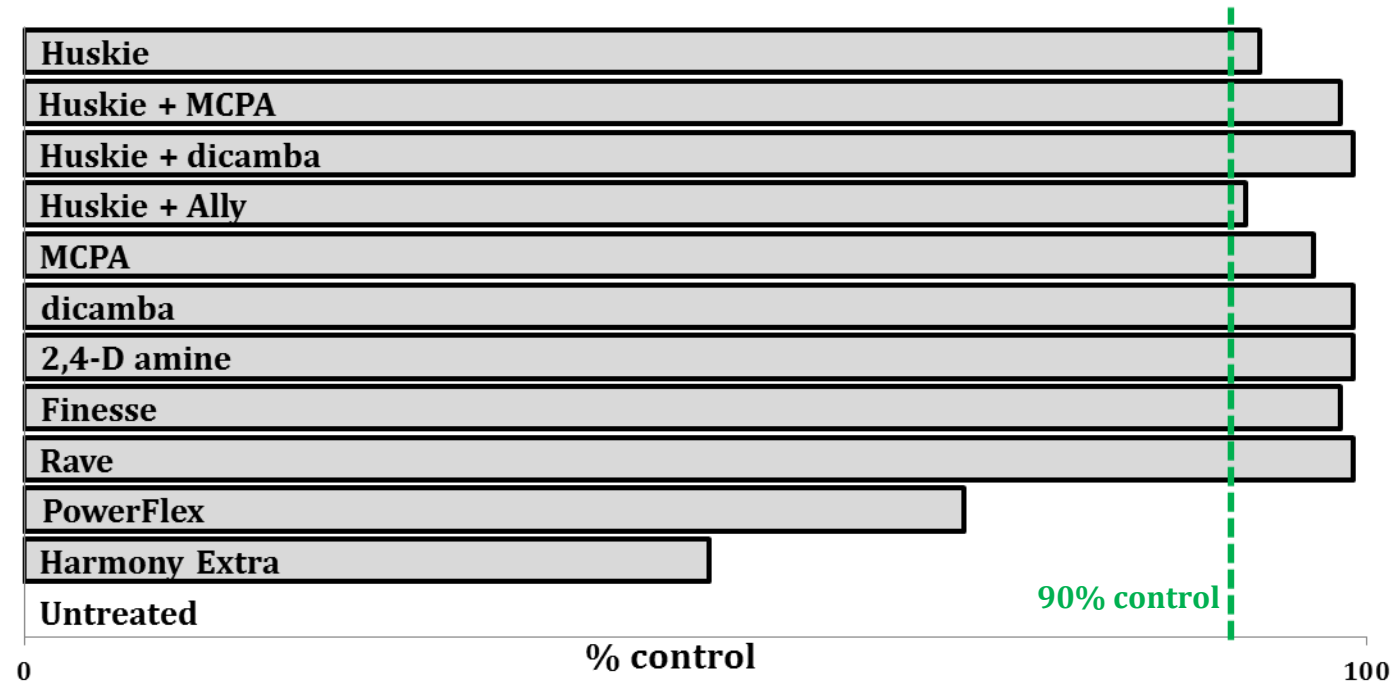
Marestail, also known as horseweed or mule's tail, has become an increasingly difficult-to-control weed in winter wheat and no-till production systems. In 2011, a study was conducted in Caddo County to determine the most effective postemergence options to control marestail in winter wheat. Treatments 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 in the rosette growth stage.

Huskie® (11 fl oz/acre), and all combinations that included Huskie, provided at least 91% control of marestail 50 days after application (see below). 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 (>96%). PowerFlex® (3.5 oz) and Harmony Extra® (0.6 oz) are both effective on many broadleaf weeds such as henbit and mustards, but controlled marestail at only 70% and 51%, respectively.



Control was evaluated 50 days after application on a scale of 0 to 99%, where 0 = no weed control and 99 = complete control of all marestail.

For maximum herbicide performance and 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 prior to early-March. Furthermore, when planning to double-crop after wheat harvest, marestail is most easily controlled in wheat. However, many of the herbicides evaluated in this study have rotation restrictions that may prevent production of certain double crops (see table on next page). Before using any herbicide or planting a rotational crop, always check the product label.

Rotation restrictions for herbicides used to control marestail in winter wheat:

	Rotation restriction* (in months, unless specified)		
Herbicide	**Soybean**	**Grain sorghum**	**Sunflower**
Huskie	4	4	9
Finesse (≤0.4 oz)	4 w/ STS varieties	4	Field bioassay
Rave	11 w/ STS varieties; 14 w/ non-STS varieties	14	24
PowerFlex	3	3	3
Harmony Extra	45 days	45 days	45 days
Ally	4 w/ STS varieties	10	22
2,4-D amine	15 days	--**	--
dicamba (4 fl oz)	12 days	15 days	12 days
MCPA ester	--	--	--

*Rotation restrictions for many of these herbicides are dependent on soil pH and precipitation. Check all product labels before use.

**Not listed specifically on label. However, if these products are applied to small marestail plants in the spring, there will be no concern with herbicide carryover to the crops listed.