

## Weed Wackers

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Missouri farmers struggling with waterhemp issues have a new resource for information thanks to the efforts of university weed scientists Kevin Bradley with University of Missouri, Bob Hartzler with Iowa State University and Dawn Nordby with University of Illinois. The result of this collaboration is "Biology and Management of Waterhemp," a brochure created to help farmers minimize yield losses from waterhemp and manage the development of herbicide resistance.

"Waterhemp is probably the No. 1 concern in the Midwest because everyone has it," Nordby says. "With this publication, we wanted to give a history of how waterhemp went from obscurity just 20 years ago to the leading offender in resistant weeds today." Waterhemp density and its potential impacts on yield present the biggest concern for farmers. The other issue is that waterhemp control increases management costs in terms of additional traditional applications.

"We wanted to paint a pretty clear picture of what will happen when we develop resistance to glyphosate. We will basically lose all our mode of actions for controlling waterhemp," Nordby says. "But, there are options out there to prevent this and if farmers want to do something about this problem, they need to do it now."

Bradley supports a preventative approach to managing herbicide-resistant waterhemp. "The No. 1 treatment method is to avoid applying the same herbicide year after year -- that is where prevention meets management," he says. "The key is mode of action rotation. By using an effective preemergence herbicide like Sonic, Authority First, Valor, Dual II Magnum, or any of the other options listed in this publication, you can control populations that have exhibited resistance."

"Biology and Management of Waterhemp" is one of many publications in The Glyphosate, Weeds and Crops Series. Farmers can attain a copy of these publications through the Glyphosate Stewardship Working Group's Web site at [www.glyphosateweedsandcrops.org](http://www.glyphosateweedsandcrops.org) or by contacting your state Extension weed scientist.