

# There Is Nothing 'Common' About Ragweed.

## Know Thy Enemy...

Common ragweed is a summer annual broadleaf weed that excels in dry environments or in course-textured soils. This is mainly due to its fibrous root system which is very efficient at mining available water allowing the plant to flourish, especially in an open canopy environment. Common ragweed seeds germinate and emerge in late spring and on into early summer, but quickly return to dormancy when soil temperatures approach  $80^{\circ}$  F (generally by late June and early July). This particular weed species would rather 'save itself' for another year instead of growing in warm soils



I'll Just Kill It With Roundup...

Well...not anymore. There was once a time when glyphosate provide good to excellent control of common ragweed. However, most all counties within the Minn-Dak growing area have biotypes of common ragweed that are documented to be (at the very least) partially resistant to glyphosate. Research studies conducted this past winter on Minn-Dak biotypes have shown that only 50 percent control was achieved when Roundup PowerMax was applied to these biotypes at 32 fl oz/A and <u>50% ragweed control in</u> <u>sugarbeet fields is not good enough!!!</u>



Simply put....your naked eye can't. The common ragweed in the photo above was pulled from a commercial field after the second application of glyphosate. Take note that these resistant biotypes come in all shapes and sizes. Continuous scouting is critical to ensure that you are utilizing the correct herbicide rates and/ or combinations to get effective control.

#### What Should I be Doing For Control?

To be very blunt...use Stinger and spray when the common ragweed is small (it is of note that there are two different formulations of Stinger in our market this season - more on that below). Regardless of formulation, research has shown that applications of Stinger to cotyledon ragweed is LESS effective compared to the weed having its first set of true leaves. With this in mind, apply Stinger at 3 fl oz (plus tank-mix partners) when ragweed is no more than 2 inches tall. Keep on top of scouting (as Stinger works slowly) and follow up with at least another 3 fl oz of Stinger 14-21 days after the initial application. Regardless of the herbicide combination(s), common ragweed control will not be acceptable when the target weeds are greater than 4 inches tall.



PowerMax + Stinger (28 fl oz + 4 fl oz) Followed By PowerMax + Stinger (28 fl oz + 4 fl oz) Followed By PowerMax (22 fl oz)

> Always Read and Follow Label Instructions

# **Should I Be Worried About Injury From Stinger?**



Absolutely Not!!! The picture to the left was taken a few days after an application of Stinger was made to one of the common ragweed experiments at NDSU. It is not uncommon for Stinger to cause the beet leaves to 'curl upward' or 'cup' - especially at higher rates. While this may look a little tough and certainly give a grower cause for alarm, try to keep in mind that this is a temporary symptom that occurs as the beets processes the herbicide. Multiple research studies independently conducted at Minn -Dak, NDSU, U of MN, and Michigan St. have all shown that <u>this</u> <u>visual effect does not translate into a yield or quality loss</u>.

## **There's A New Sheriff In Town - Stinger HL**

Please be aware that there are now two formulations of Stinger available for retail this season. Corteva has release 'Stinger HL' into our market for 2021. Stinger HL is a more concentrated formulation of the original Stinger product and as such, it will have a much lower use rate on a per acre basis. The chart below offers a simple conversion between the two products.

If you are unsure which product you have on your farm, remember that the original Stinger is an amber-colored liquid and the new Stinger HL has been dyed blue for easy identification.

Equivalent Rates of Stinger / Stinger HL (fl oz/A)				
Stinger	2	3	4	6
Stinger HL	1.2	1.8	2.4	3.6