

Southern Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area

Japanese Chaff Flower Summit

Notes from the Discussion on Chaff Flower Control

The Japanese Chaff Flower Summit was held on Friday August 26th 2011 at the Falls of the Ohio State Park in Clarksville, IN. The Summit was well attended with representatives from Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Illinois. It is believed that at the time of the Summit anyone who has experience managing Japanese Chaff Flower was present at this discussion.

It is important to note that we are very early on in the process of learning about Japanese Chaff Flower and all of the control methods we discussed have only been conducted for one or two seasons. Much more research and experimentation is needed to formulate the best control methods.

-We know very little about the overall life cycle of Japanese Chaff flower, including seed longevity in the soil. It is perennial and releases massive amounts of seed that are very easily dispersed. The seed germination rate is very high.

-Chaff flower has a delayed germination window, with seeds germinating throughout the season. Herbicide treatments may need to be conducted about every two weeks to control plants as they germinate.

-General consensus was that effective control can be had with foliar applications of glyphosate or triclopyr at a 2% rate.

-Control activities should be conducted before or at the onset of flowering. Herbicide applications conducted after seed production began were found to have decreased effectiveness.

-River-to-River CWMA is currently conducting tests of Garlon3A, Rodeo, and 2-4D with the 2% rate. Other application rates will be tested later.

-Manual control will only be effective for small infestations or newly germinated plants. Because of the extremely vigorous root systems hand pulling is not recommended for mature plants. Repeated mowing does not kill Chaff Flower.

-Early detection is critical. The spread of Chaff flower directly follows the Ohio River. Seed is transported by humans and wildlife. Conduct surveys along roadsides, trails, campsites, parking lots, and river tributaries.

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