

THE ENEMY: Horseweed (*Conyza Canadensis* L.)

Strategy: This is a winter or summer annual that is a native to North American grasslands. This aster can grow to a height of 5 feet from a single stem. This stem produces many leaflets that taper toward the top thus it resembles a horses tail or gives it its alternate name of Marestail. The leaves of the plant are quite 'hairy'. The leaflets lead to small buds that produce a ray of small yellow disk flowers. Like all annual the plants this invader produces thousands of seeds. These are flattened and have a plume that allows it to float in the air. Seeding can occur from late June to early September.

Attack: This plant could become our next great invader like Kochia and Russian thistle. It invades landscapes, pastures, meadows, cultivated fields, roadsides, and waste areas even if there is little moisture. The plant contains a chemical which can irritate the nostrils of horses. As this is the case animals tend to stay away from the plant which allows the plant to spread through the areas.

Defense: Mowing the plant when it is in the bud stage will prevent the seeds from forming, just don't mow too early as the plant will grow back and removing will have to be done. Herbicides such as 2,4-D can be effective if used in the early spring. Once established the use of stronger herbicides that contain Dicamba is effective. Escort XP is effective at low rates and Telar XP is effective at higher rates. In pasture Opensight would be best. This is one of the most chemical resistant plants around, even to Roundup (watch for it in Roundup Ready alfalfa). As this is somewhat of a new invader call your local weed professional for proper identification.

