

Native Prairie Management

Pre Planting Site Prep

-Firm seedbed is very important!

-If previously in soybeans, do not till. If previously in Corn, work and level to get rid of trash, maintain firmness by packing.

-If you have green up before planting from weed competition, spray with Round-Up or like chemical.

*Always remember to consult chemical rep or label for proper application rates for above mentioned chemicals

1st year management

-Seed with Native Grass Drill from **May 15th to June 30th or After November 1st**

-within 5 to 7 days after planting, spray with Round-Up or like chemical.

-Keep clipped at 6-8 inches until Aug 15

***Comments:** Some Native Prairie plantings look better than others. Do not be concerned with sites that are weedy with little grass emergence.

*Always remember to consult chemical rep or label for proper application rates for above mentioned chemicals

2nd and 3rd Year Management

-NO CLIPPING/MOWING UNLESS DIRECTED BY SWCD OR NRCS

-**Spot spray** Canada thistle with Milestone*VM or Transline* during Spring and Fall (*see back for Thistle Management Recommendations*). This is the time to get thistle populations under control if they exist.

***Comments:** You should see both Native grass and Forbs (flowers) at this stage. Do not be concerned if stand still appears to be thin.

*Always remember to consult chemical rep or label for proper rates of above mentioned chemicals

4th or 5th Year Management

-NO CLIPPING/MOWING

-Spring burn needed. Consult SWCD, NRCS, or Consultant for burn plan assistance.

- Burn on 5-year rotation. Only burn ½ of prairie to maintain nesting habitat.

***Comments:** You should have a well established prairie, remember to monitor and control Canada thistle populations.

Contact Renville SWCD at 320-523-1559 for more information

Herbicide Resources for Wildlife Management

CANADA THISTLE CONTROL IN PRAIRIE

Optimum **Canada thistle** control can be achieved when treatments are made in the spring, after plants are 4-6" tall through early flower (mid May to end of June), or in the fall after hot dry weather has ceased (September through light frost). **Sow thistles** are easier to control and require lower rates of herbicide. Good distribution over both plants is desired, and best achieved with a water volume of at between 20 to 40 GPA. Addition of surfactant may enhance performance during droughty conditions and should always be considered for added insurance. Two treatments are optimal and eradication on a given site is possible, but scouting for re-treatment is a crucial.

Broadcast application is acceptable in fields with no forbs or broad leafs contained in the seeding mix but take special care to spot spray grasslands that have either a native forb, or introduced forb components.

Application of chemical outside above mentioned parameters will result in poor to no control.

Milestone*VM: for Canada thistle control mix 5-7oz. in 20 to 40 GPA water. For Sow thistle control, use 4-5 oz. in 20 to 40 GPA water. **(Consult product label for more specific instructions)*

Transline*: for Canada thistle control mix 12-20oz in 20 to 40 GPA water. For Sow thistle control, use 16 oz. in 20 to 40 GPA water. **(Consult product label for more specific instructions)*

CANADA THISTLE IS A SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PROBLEM, GENERALLY NOT A WILDLIFE HABITAT PROBLEM!!!!!!