Tips for Fall Application of Milestone® Herbicide

Canada Thistle

Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense) is a perennial plant forming dense colonies from extensive spreading roots. Canada thistle spreads by vegetative roots and by seed; each shoot can produce more than 1,000 seeds. This invasive weed infests many habitats from cultivated fields to wildlands, and can often be found along waterways. Using a systemic herbicide like Milestone is the best way to control Canada thistle. Most other management methods do not give long-term control of the extensive root system.

Why should I apply Milestone in the fall?

- University of Nebraska research reports Canada thistle is more susceptible to herbicides when applied in the fall following a light frost.
- Fall application timing offers more time to treat with other summer field work completed.
- Tank mixing with other herbicides is not necessary; Milestone alone at labeled rates will control Canada thistle.

How much Milestone should I use?

- Research trials found fall applications to be very effective with Milestone at 5 to 7 fluid ounces per acre (Figure 1).

When in the fall should I apply Milestone?

- It is a good idea to wait for fall moisture to stimulate regrowth of perennial plants.
- Studies to determine how late in the fall Milestone can be applied were completed in three states (Figure 2). Milestone provided excellent control up to mid-November. Even though Canada thistle leaves were beginning to senesce, generally there was still excellent efficacy as long as there was some green foliage.
- For applications in October and later, apply Milestone at 7 fluid ounces per acre.

Is the control of Canada thistle with Milestone the same in non-mowed areas compared to mowed areas?

Field research studies have shown minimal differences in control with Milestone applied in fall to mowed or non-mowed Canada thistle. Allow 14 days after mowing before applying herbicide.

Figure 1. Control of Canada thistle with fall applications of various herbicides. Evaluations at 1 year after treatment. Average of 22 sites VA, ND (2), SD, NE, WY, CO, and WA. *Trademark of Dow AgroSciences ^ Trademark of MicroFlo Company LLC.

Figure 2. Canada thistle control at 3 fall application times. Research location in SD, ND, and NE.