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FALL WEED MANAGEMENT TIPS

(adapted from Dan Brainard, Michigan State Extension)

Fall is an important time to evaluate weed management. Note the location of problem weeds and think about crop rotation, tillage practices, cover crops, etc. to deal with them next year. Take particular note of any new weed species that may have shown up.



Hairy galinsoga warrants special attention, even hand-pulling, when it first appears in a relatively small area, to keep it from spreading. (It has a small white flower with a yellow center and black seeds.)

This is also a good time to take steps to minimize the number of weed seeds added to the soil. As crops come out of the field, the weeds left behind often sow seeds of future problems. For summer annual weeds like pigweed and lambsquarters, the short days of late summer stimulate seed production. Even small plants can produce thousands of seeds at this time of year which can last for decades in the soil. It is therefore important to till or disk fields as soon as possible after harvest to prevent seed maturation. Mowing can also be e

GOOD

Individual cloves should be separated from the bulb the day of or up to two days before planting. Cloves separated for longer than two days tend to dry out. Generally, larger cloves from larger bulbs will produce the lar

In a typical planting, where rows are 8 to 9 feet apart, prune out raspberry canes in late winter or early spring to approximately 10-15 canes per 3 feet of row. Where rows are further apart, cane numbers should be increased. Over the whole area, the optimum cane number is about 6-8 canes per square yard.

Cut back the fruiting cane tips to a convenient height for picking. Be sure to cut off dried up fruiting clusters from the tips of Nova and Prelude. Use a mower for summer pruning of primocanes along the row edges. The earlier these shoots are removed the better.

After harvest, old fruiting canes should be removed from the row. We used to think that this job should be done as soon as possible after harvest. However we now know that nitrogen and other nutrients are transported out of fruiting canes after harvest, back to the crown. There is also anecdotal evidence that, in a marginal year, winter injury can be worse on varieties pruned right after harvest. On winter sensitive varieties you should probably delay pruning out the fruiting canes until the plants are dormant.

Make sure that canes are pruned close to the ground. Do not leave long pruning stubs. Several insects overwinter in the lower portion of f