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## INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 87-6] [April 24, 1987]

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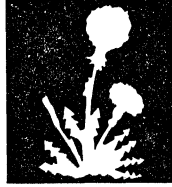
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**INSECT  
PLANT DISEASE  
WEED SCIENCE****NEWS**

DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY (WEED SCIENCE) UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN,  
EAST CAMPUS 68583-0915 PHONE 472-1555 87-6

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April 24, 1987

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**Musk Thistle Control**

As the weather warms and the grass greens, musk and assorted other pasture thistles are set to compete, bolt, flower, and scatter seeds across the land. Springing from an innocent-looking flat rosette in late April to a gigantic seed factory in late June, this same scene repeats itself yearly. A robust musk thistle can produce 20,000 seeds. Last summer and fall had ideal weather for musk thistle seed production, germination, and rosette growth. With abundant root reserves, the thistles will be vigorous in 1987. The only effective way to control them chemically is by spraying the rosettes. Once the center stalk elongates, musk thistle has a much higher tolerance for herbicides and is not easily killed. So apply either 2,4-D at 1 1/2-2 qt/A, Banvel + 2,4-D at 0.5 + 1 qt/A, or Tordon 22K at 0.5 pt/A within the next two weeks. Normally May 1 to May 10 are the critical dates for musk thistle bolting across Nebraska from southeast to northwest.

Be especially careful of sensitive, non-target plants in the vicinity of the spray area and avoid drift onto these species. All of the thistle herbicides will injure trees, shrubs, flowers, garden crops, ornamentals, alfalfa, and other broadleaf crops. The surest way to avoid plant injury is to spray as soon as possible and to use good judgment regarding wind speed, wind direction, and spray application.

Even though musk thistle is a biennial it is an annual problem, so give some consideration to a fall treatment for controlling the 1988 crop. Fall application is effective, less risky to many sensitive plants, and usually more convenient for the applicator.

**Book Announcement: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

A new book, "Sustainable Agriculture...Wise and Profitable Use of Our Resources in Nebraska", is now available from the Department of Agronomy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The book highlights practices which help producers cut costs by reducing inputs, particularly fine-tuning fertilizer and pesticide

(Continued)



applications to those levels considered appropriate (and necessary). There are a number of articles on non-chemical approaches to pest control and to meeting a part of the fertility needs of crops with rotations and legumes.

Sustainable Agriculture is available at cost from the Department of Agronomy at the address shown below. Each book costs \$7.00 to cover printing and mailing.

Sustainable Agriculture Book  
Department of Agronomy  
279 Plant Sciences  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0910

### 1987 Weed Science Tour

The itinerary has been set for the 1987 Weed Tour. We will be completing the entire tour during the same week this year. The proposed itinerary is as follows:

June 22, 12:30 p.m. Concord - Northeast REC  
6:30 p.m. Lincoln - 84th and Havelock Avenue

June 23, 10:00 a.m. Clay Center - South Central REC  
12:00 Noon Adjourn

June 24, 8:00 a.m. North Platte - West Central REC  
3:00 p.m. Sidney - High Plains Station  
(MDT)

June 25, 8:00 a.m. Scottsbluff - Panhandle REC  
(MDT)  
11:00 a.m. Adjourn  
(MDT)

### David Mortensen Joins Staff at Lincoln

Dr. David Mortensen has joined the Agronomy Department at Lincoln as an Assistant Professor. His responsibilities will be both Research and Teaching with research emphasis on weed control in conservation tillage systems. Dave is a native of New York and recently completed his Ph.D. under Dr. Harold Coble at North Carolina State University. Welcome aboard, Dave!

*Fred Roeth*

Fred W. Roeth  
Extension Weeds Specialist

*Alex Martin*

Alex R. Martin  
Extension Weeds Specialist