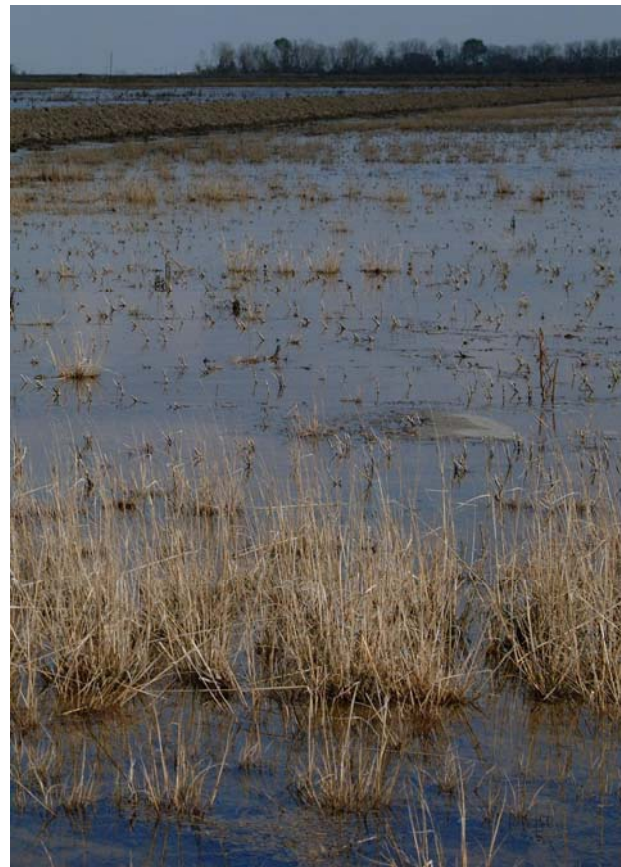


Field Notes
March 5, 2009
Johnny Saichuk



For some time I have suspected that Nealley Sprangletop was behaving as a perennial down here even though all of my references classify it as an annual. Earlier this week a dealer rep found what he thought was Nealley Sprangletop sprouting in a field that had already been “burned down” with glyphosate. The photos below show exactly what was expected. He had correctly identified the plant by the old seedheads. A number of folks are reporting that Command only provides partial control and this might be the reason. It probably picks up the seedlings well, but will not control plants coming back from last year’s stubble.

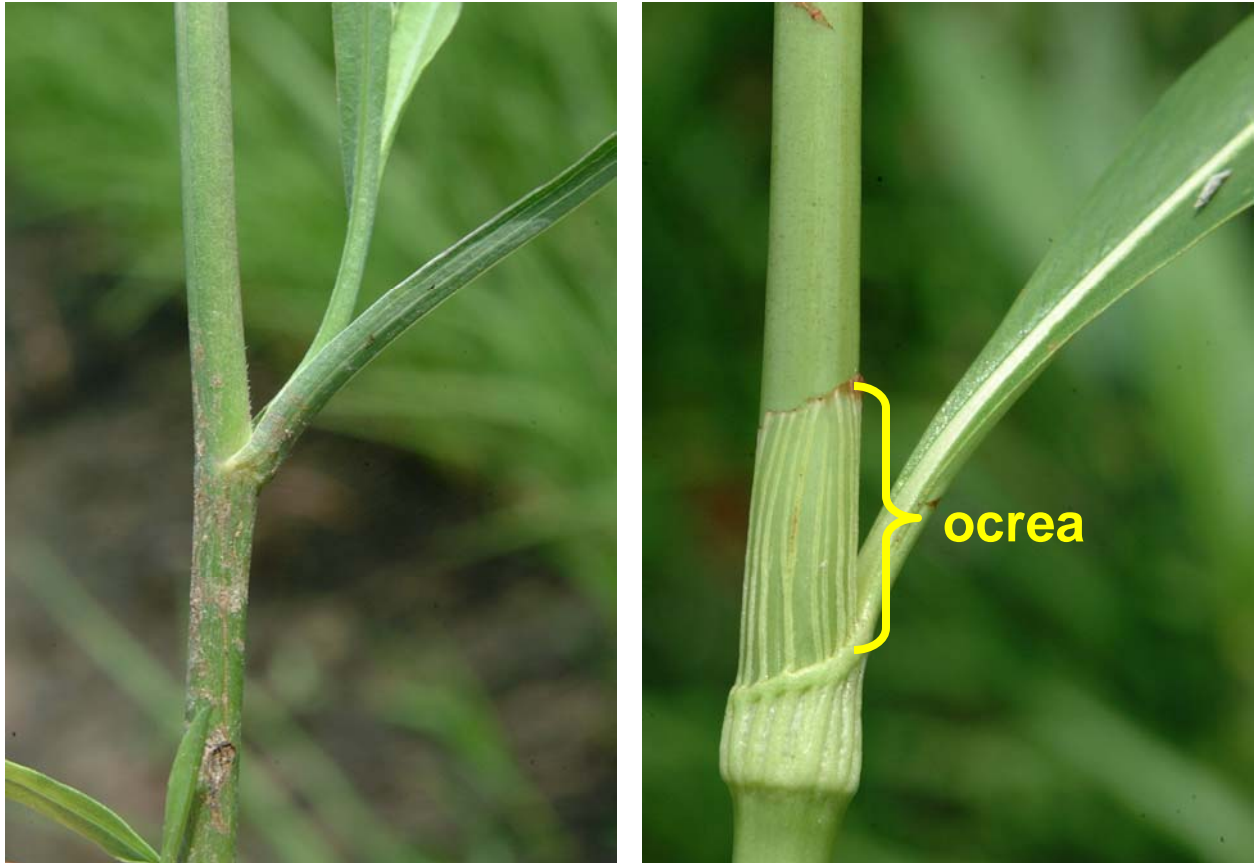


On the left is a closeup of the tillers originating from old stubble of Nealley Sprangletop and on the right is an overall shot of the field. The field is being flooded in preparation for planting. The representative said they will use Command in the water because of the heavy seed production associated with this grass. I think that is a wise decision. The sprouting grass may require something else later. We will see.

On the next page are two photographs of the same grass depicting the inflorescences at maturity. I put them in to help refresh their memory of those who already have seen it and as a warning to those who might have seen a few plants and did not think much about them. Watch this one!



The preceding two photographs show a plant that is also increasing especially in reduced tillage systems. It is a perennial that appears to be at least tolerant of glyphosate at our traditional rates used in pre-plant burndown applications. It looks like a cross of dock and smartweed, but is not even closely related. It is in the same family as sunflowers. Both dock and smartweed have a specialized structure at the juncture of the leaf base and stem called an ocrea. This is absent in Narrow Leaved Aster.



The stem on the left is of Narrow Leaved Aster and that on the right one of the “smartweeds”. Smartweed and dock are in the Polygonaceae family. Technically speaking only one species is appropriately called smartweed. The key Dr. Webster and his graduate students have worked provides a means to separate these weeds based on characteristics of the upper margin of the ocrea. One of these days we may find out we can control one species and not the other as we have learned on the perennial grasses found in some rice fields. The key I mentioned will be posted on the web soon.

I hope this helps with some weeds. As always if you have others you would like to see or have seen let us know and we will pass the word along via this format.