

Perennial weed management

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- Numerous persistence strategies
- Seed & vegetative reproduction
- Plant morphology determines competitive nature
- Control/cultivation timing vital
- Long-term control strategy needed
- Integrated control strategy needed
- Manipulate weed biology



Manipulating thistles!



- Seeds persist for 20 years (decline 5-10 years)
- > burial = > persistence
- Majority spread by rhizome fragments
- High dormancy in rhizomes
- Fragments < 2cm do not grow
- Re-emergence likely in November
- Rhizomes lowest just pre-flowering
- New shoots can flower within one year
- Tolerates cold, dislikes hot/dry conditions

Get to know your weeds!!!