

CONCLUSIONS

Dock

Density of dock decreased more than 50% in three years when spot sprayed in May with 2,4-D. Control plots remained at original densities.

Wild parsnip

Spot spraying with 2,4-D gave nearly complete control for a two year period following spraying but populations returned to pretreatment levels the third year. Hand cutting of flowering plants had no significant effect upon density the succeeding year.

Canada thistle

Results indicate less than 5% of the roadside area in Franklin Township was infested with Canada thistle. Total area of infestation fluctuated during the study, while patches located increased. Results were inconclusive on incidence of new patch establishment. Density within patches was reduced 62% over three years when treated with Banvel or 2,4-D, while a control treated with the usual mass-spray increased 55%.

Native grass establishment

Satisfactory stands of native prairie grasses were established using a hydroseeder. Seedbed preparation appears to be necessary for establishment. No establishment was observed in overseeding into existing roadside vegetation.

Vegetation dynamics

Very little change was observed in vegetation subjected to mass-spraying procedures in three years of study. In non-sprayed plots there was significant increase in total cover and number of species per plot. Relative grass cover decreased while relative cover of annuals and perennial herbs increased. No significant change was observed in cover of woody vegetation. Clover, sweet clover and giant ragweed were identified as annuals increasing most in cover.