

1-2013

## 2013 Dodder Management Survey

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Sandler, Hilary A. and Hedderig, Chelsea, "2013 Dodder Management Survey" (2013). *Cranberry Station Research Reports and Surveys*. 11.

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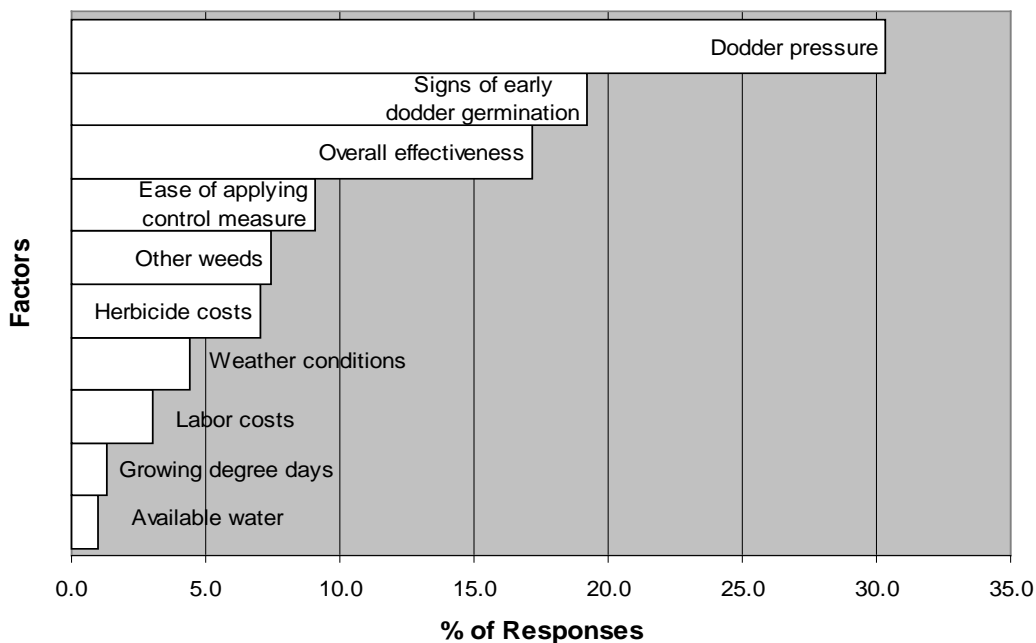
**2013 Dodder Management Survey**  
**Hilary Sandler and Chelsea Hedderig**  
**UMass Cranberry Station, East Wareham, MA**

At the 2013 Cranberry Management Update meeting, we handed out a dodder management survey, which was the first activity of a grant sponsored by EPA Regional Agricultural Grants Program (PE-0-96156701) to assess the needs and promote IPM for dodder management in cranberry. We handed out 269 surveys and 171 were given back to us (64% return rate). One hundred and thirty-six (136) people were the decision-makers on their farms. The objectives of the survey were to identify how problematic dodder is for the industry, what people felt managed it best, and define some obstacles to control. We also hoped to identify some of you who might be willing to participate in future dodder brainstorming sessions.

**Age of Bog Affected.** When asked what age bogs were affected by dodder, you responded by saying that bogs less than 1 yr old had about a 52% infestation, bog acres 1-3 yrs old had a 62% infestation, bogs 3-5 years had about a 30% infestation while bog acres that were older than 5 years had a 67% infestation (N=125).

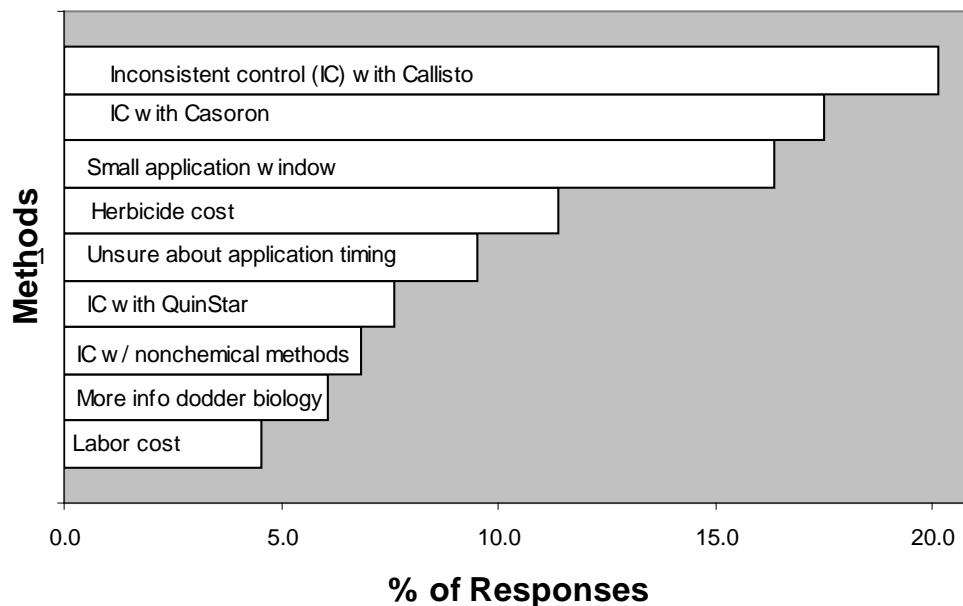
**Influences on Management.** You were asked about the top 3 factors that influence your dodder management decisions (the choices were listed on the survey). The graph below shows the percentage of growers that give weight to each factor in their decision making on dodder management (297 answers from 118 growers). The most frequent answer was dodder pressure with 30% of the responses. Next was signs of early dodder germination with 19% and then overall herbicide effectiveness with 17% of the responses.

**Factors that Influence Dodder Management Decisions**



**Obstacles to Management.** Then we asked you about the top 3 obstacles you encountered when trying to achieve adequate dodder control. The graph below describes the control methods that are the largest obstacles in dodder control for growers. (263 answers from 115 growers). The most highly noted was inconsistent or poor control with Callisto with 20% of the vote. 18% noted inconsistent or poor control with Casoron as one of their top 3 obstacles to good management and 16% said that their biggest obstacle was a small application window.

### Biggest Obstacles for Dodder Control



**Frequency and Rating of Control Methods.** We wanted to know how people were managing their dodder infestations and what they thought of the result. Below are two tables; the first one show how often people used a particular control method, and the second table discusses how people rated the effectiveness of the treatments.

When asked "How FREQUENTLY have you used these practices for dodder control?"  
(number of growers who responded)

	Every Year	Most Years	Some Years	Never
Casoron Only	11	22	52	20
Callisto Only	34	21	38	11
QuinStar Only	2	1	31	44
Casoron and Callisto	4	17	25	33
Casoron and QuinStar	0	1	10	55
Casoron, QuinStar and Callisto	1	0	11	56
QuinStar and Callisto	0	0	3	5
Flood	5	2	15	50
Raking	10	4	42	30
Hand/Clipping	16	3	39	30

Callisto Only was selected most often with 93 growers using it from every year to only some years (see table above). Casoron Only was selected by 85 growers who used it every year to some years. Hand weeding and clipping were then selected 3<sup>rd</sup> most commonly by 61 growers. Using combinations of Casoron/QuinStar and the triple-combination of herbicides were not popular; flooding was the least used non-chemical control (126 responded to this question).

When asked "How would you RATE the methods that you have tried for dodder control?" (number of growers who responded)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Used
Casoron Only	11	27	35	18	13
Callisto Only	5	32	39	16	5
QuinStar Only	2	9	11	12	45
Casoron and Callisto	3	23	19	7	35
Casoron and QuinStar	1	3	4	2	60
Casoron, QuinStar and Callisto	0	4	2	2	63
QuinStar and Callisto	0	1	1	0	8
Flood	1	7	9	8	50
Raking	1	3	23	26	29
Hand/Clipping	5	21	16	16	29

The top rated “Excellent” was Casoron Only (12% of those who responded that they used that selection), followed by Callisto Only (5%). The top three (numbers-wise) for “Good” was Callisto Only, Casoron Only, and Casoron and Callisto together (35%, 29%, and 44%, respectively). Hand-clipping was rated “Good” by 36% of the responders to this method. The most popular (in absolute numbers) rated at “Fair” was Callisto Only, reported by 42% of growers, Casoron only was “Fair” by 38% of growers, and raking was “Fair” by 43% of growers. (123 growers answered this question).

**Extent of Infestations.** To assess your perspective of how extensive dodder infestations are, 30% said dodder was a minor problem, 52% said that they have a moderate dodder problem while 7% of growers reported a severe dodder problem (N=135). Those of you who said that dodder was not a problem made up 12%. One-third of you reported that dodder has become less manageable in the past 5 years, 35% reported management has stayed the same and 26% reported that dodder has become more manageable (N=133).

**Where does Dodder Occur?** As a fill-in-the-blank question, we asked where you found dodder on your property and the top 5 answers, in order were: loading/pumping areas (18), random/spotty areas (17 responses), on edges (16), along ditches (13), and on high spots (13) (125 answers given by 106 growers).