

# WEED OF THE season

Nodding, winged and variegated thistles are the most likely species to develop resistance to or tolerance of phenoxy herbicides.

While resistance or tolerance is slowly becoming more widespread throughout New Zealand, many farmers still are not aware that they may have these plants on their property.

The common misconception is that resistance is a North Island problem, limited to regions like Hawke's Bay, Bay of Plenty and Waikato, but this is no longer the case with cases being identified in Canterbury as well.

The first sign of something wrong is usually a disappointing response to phenoxy herbicide application even when application rates and timing have been ideal.

In these cases – and where farmers seek to control large, hard to kill thistles – success is usually just a matter of adding clopyralid (ie 100-200 ml/ha **Archer®**) to the phenoxy herbicide in question.

Because resistance/tolerance comes from years of using the same chemical family on the same farm however, make sure your customers don't just buy phenoxy herbicides out of habit without first checking to see if they're aware of resistance issues, and then making sure they know what corrective action to take if resistance is suspected.

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