WEEDWATCH
STANDING SENTINEL TO PROTECT PLANT HEALTH

COMMON SOWTHISTLE
Sonchus oleraceus

IDENTIFICATION TIPS
› This annual is hard to distinguish from perennial sowthistle (Sonchus arvensis) because both species are tall weeds with yellow, dandelion-like flowers and stems that produce a milky sap.
› Common sowthistle has a taproot and reproduces only by seed.
› Leaves are bluish-green alternate, clasping the stem with prominent, rounded spiny lobes.
› Bright yellow flowers bloom from June through August and turn into white “puffballs” similar to dandelions.

CONTROL TIPS
› Identify whether you have annual or perennial sowthistle. Herbicides registered for control of one form of sowthistle may not control the other. Check the label carefully.
› Clopyralid controls both annual and perennial sowthistle.
› Tillage and low mowing help control annual sowthistle.

BROADLEAF PLANTAIN
Plantago major

IDENTIFICATION TIPS
› This plant has a short, thick taproot that forms a rosette of leaves that lay flat to the ground.
› The broad, oval-shaped leaves have three to five prominent parallel veins, and are attached to the root system by a fibrous, celery-shaped petiole.
› Flowers appear on leafless, unbranched stalks that originate from the base of the plant.
› It adapts well to most sites — including dry or wet conditions, heavy soils and very low mowing heights.

CONTROL TIPS
› This species typically requires repeat applications of triclopyr or two- or three-way mixtures of 2,4-D containing products.
› Helpful turf management practices include conducting soil aeration, avoiding overwatering, and using the proper mower cutting height for each turf species.
› Once under control, dense stands of turf and ornamentals will shade the soil surface — making establishment of new plantain seedlings more difficult.

For more information regarding these and other turf weeds — and related control technologies and tips — please visit www.DowProvesIt.com or call 800/255-3726.