WEED INFESTATION OF A SPRING WHEAT (Triticum aestivum L.) CROP UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF PLOUGH AND PLOUGHLESS TILLAGE

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Abstract
A field experiment was conducted in the period 2007-2009 in the Uhrusk Experimental Farm (Lublin region) belonging to the University of Life Sciences in Lublin. Different tillage systems – plough and ploughless tillage – were the experimental factors. In the plough tillage system, tillage involved skimming done after the harvest of the forecrop and autumn ploughing. In the ploughless tillage system, only the herbicide Roundup 360 SL (active substance – glyphosate) was applied after the harvest of the forecrop. In both tillage treatments, spring tillage involved field cultivating and the use of a tillage assembly consisting of a cultivator, cage roller, and harrow. The present experiment evaluated weed infestation of the crop expressed by the number and air-dry weight of weeds and their species composition. Under the conditions of ploughless tillage, air-dry weight of weeds in the spring wheat crop was shown to increase significantly compared to plough tillage. The tillage systems under comparison did not differentiate the number of weeds per 1 m². Spring wheat sown using plough tillage was colonized most extensively by the following weed species: Avena fatua L., Stellaria media (L.) Vill., Galium aparine L., Amaranthus retroflexus L., Chenopodium album L., and Consolida regalis Gray. In the ploughless tillage treatments, the following weeds were predominant: Stellaria media (L.) Vill., Avena fatua L., Fallopia convolvulus (L.) A. Löve, Papaver rhoeas L., Amaranthus retroflexus L., Galium aparine L., and Chenopodium album L.

Key words: spring wheat, plough tillage, ploughless tillage, number of weeds, air-dry weight of weeds, species composition

INTRODUCTION
The weed infestation level in cereal crops is affected by many factors, among which the most important role is attributed to the soil diaspore bank, agricultural practices used, and habitat conditions (Kraska and Pałys, 2006; Sekutowski and Rola, 2006). The literature of the subject shows that fruits and seeds in the soil are a potential source of crop weed infestation, which is reflected in weed infestation of the crop (Wesołowski and Woźniak, 2001; Feledyn-Szewczyk and Duer, 2007). The weed infestation level is also dependent on the tillage system. Weber and Hryńczuk (2005) showed that reduced tillage increased weed infestation of a winter wheat crop compared to conventional tillage and direct drilling or sowing. Similar conclusions were also made by Gawęda (2007). She showed an increase in the weed infestation rates under the conditions of ploughless tillage compared to plough tillage. In the study of Woźniak (2010), ploughless tillage also had an effect on the increase in the number and weight of weeds in comparison with plough tillage. In turn, plough tillage promoted the increase in the number of weed species compared to ploughless tillage. Sekutowski and Rola (2006) draw attention to the increase in the number of fruits and seeds in the soil under the conditions of ploughless tillage, whereas Dzięń and Dojss (1999) to their distribution in the soil. As shown by research, in ploughless tillage systems diaspores accumulate primarily in the topsoil, hence when they germinate they affect weed infestation of the crop plant.

The aim of the present study was to compare the values of the weed infestation parameters (number of weeds per 1 m², air-dry weight of weeds in g x m⁻², and species composition) in a spring wheat crop sown using plough and ploughless tillage systems.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
A field experiment was conducted in the period 2007-2009 in the Uhrusk Experimental Farm (Lublin
weight of weeds were similar to those relating to the above-mentioned trait (Table 3). The weeds produced a significantly lower weight in 2008 than in the other years. Relative to the year 2007, it was lower by 67.4%, whereas compared to 2009 by more than 53%.

The tillage system also modified the trait under study. The weight produced by weeds in the ploughless tillage treatments was more than 31% higher than that in the ploughed plots. Air-dry weight of weeds was also impacted by the interaction of the study years and tillage system. In the ploughless tillage treatments, weeds produced the lowest weight in 2008 (30 g x m\(^{-2}\)), and the highest one in 2007 (92.2 g x m\(^{-2}\)).

The tillage systems under evaluation also affected weed species composition. In 2007 the plough tillage treatments were colonized by 30 species, including 27 annual species and 3 perennial ones (Table 4). Among the annual species, the following were found: *Avena fatua* L., *Consolida regalis* Gray, *Stellaria media* (L.) Vill., *Chenopodium album* L., *Galeopsis tetrahit* L., and *Galium aparine* L. Perennial weeds were represented by *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop., *Convolvulus arvensis* L., and *Elymus repens* (L.) P.B. In 2008 the presence of 26 species was found - 24 annual species and 2 perennial ones. Among the annual species, the following had the highest numbers: *Stellaria media* L., *Chenopodium album* L., *Avena fatua* L., *Galium aparine* L., *Papaver rhoeas* L., and *Galinsoga parviflora* Cav., whereas in the group of perennials, these were *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop. and *Convolvulus arvensis* L. In 2009 the wheat crop was colonized by 19 weed species – 18 annual species and 1 perennial species. Among the short-lived species, the following were predominant in quantitative terms: *Avena fatua* L., *Amaranthus retroflexus* L., *Papaver rhoeas* L., *Galinsoga parviflora* Cav., *Galium aparine* L., and *Melandrium album* (Mill.) Garcke, while in the group of perennials it was *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop.

Under the conditions of ploughless tillage, in 2007 the weed community was composed of 28 species, including 24 annual species and 4 perennial ones (Table 5). The following occurred most frequently: *Stellaria media* (L.) Vill., *Avena fatua* L., *Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.) P.B., *Chenopodium album* L., *Galium aparine* L., and *Consolida regalis* Gray. Perennial species were represented in the greatest number by the following weeds: *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop., *Convolvulus arvensis* L., *Elymus repens* (L.) P.B., and *Sonchus arvensis* L. In 2008 the wheat crop was colonized by 25 weed species – 21 annual species and 4 perennial ones. The following short-lived species were the most numerous: *Stellaria media* (L.) Vill., *Chenopodium album* L., *Galium aparine* L., *Avena fatua* L., *Papaver rhoeas* L., and *Polygonum aviculare* L. Perennial weeds were represented by the following: *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop., *Convolvulus arvensis* L., *Elymus repens* (L.) P.B., and *Sonchus arvensis* L. In the last
year of the study (2009), the presence of 23 species – 19 annual species and 4 perennial ones – was found in the wheat crop. The following annual weeds occurred in the greatest number: *Amaranthus retroflexus* L., *Papaver rhoeas* L., *Avena fatua* L., *Fallopia convolvulus* (L.) A. Löve, and *Galium aparine* L. Perennial species were as follows: *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop., *Sonchus arvensis* L., *Convolvulus arvensis* L., and *Elymus repens* (L.) P.B.

In analysing the spatial distribution of weeds in the wheat crop, it was found that species belonging to the middle layer made up a large majority, 40% in total, weed species in the upper and lower layers accounted for 22.9% in each layer, whereas weeds in the ground layer constituted 14.2% (Table 6). Differences in weed species composition were found with respect to the tillage systems under comparison, in particular in the middle and lower layers. The following weed species were not found in the plough tillage treatments: *Atriplex patula* L., *Raphanus raphanistrum* L., *Vicia villosa* Roth., *Erodium cicutarium* (L.) L’Herit, and *Galinsoga parviflora* Cav. It can be presumed that diasporas of these weeds were located in the deeper soil layers (where they got together with animal manure), and they were moved to the soil surface during ploughing.

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**Table 1.**

| Months | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  | Long-term data (1989-2006) |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------------|
| IV     | 24.4  | 50.0  | 27.0  | 48.0                     |
| V      | 98.8  | 69.0  | 81.5  | 58.6                     |
| VI     | 96.0  | 37.7  | 169.3 | 65.6                     |
| VII    | 156.8 | 117.0 | 42.7  | 83.9                     |
| VIII   | 91.4  | 39.0  | 60.0  | 75.6                     |
| Total  | 467.4 | 312.7 | 380.5 | 331.6                    |

**Table 2.**

| Years | Plough tillage | Ploughless tillage | Mean |
|-------|----------------|-------------------|------|
| 2007  | 174.2          | 101.5             | 137.9|
| 2008  | 38.5           | 64.5              | 51.5 |
| 2009  | 52.7           | 108.8             | 80.8 |
| Mean  | 88.5           | 91.6              | –    |

LSD (p=0.05)
Between years – 24.5
Between tillage systems – n.s.
Years x tillage systems – 39.5

**Table 3.**

| Years | Plough tillage | Ploughless tillage | Mean |
|-------|----------------|-------------------|------|
| 2007  | 98.0           | 86.3              | 92.2 |
| 2008  | 19.9           | 40.1              | 30.0 |
| 2009  | 34.0           | 93.8              | 63.9 |
| Mean  | 50.6           | 73.4              | –    |

LSD (p=0.05)
Between years – 19.7
Between tillage systems – 16.2
Years x tillage systems – 30.1
Table 4.
Species composition and number of weeds per 1 m² in the spring wheat crop under the conditions of plough tillage

| Species composition | Years |          |          |          |
|---------------------|-------|----------|----------|----------|
|                     |       | 2007     | 2008     | 2009     | Mean     |
| I. Annual           |       |          |          |          |          |
| 1. Avena fatua L.   | 21.0  | 4.0      | 12.0     | 12.3     |          |
| 2. Consolida regalis Gray | 19.0 | 1.0      | -        | 6.7      |          |
| 3. Stellaria media (L.) Vill. | 16.0 | 5.5      | 1.0      | 10.5     |          |
| 4. Chenopodium album L. | 15.5 | 4.5      | -        | 6.7      |          |
| 5. Galeopsis tetrahit L. | 15.0 | 0.8      | 1.5      | 5.8      |          |
| 6. Galium aparine L. | 15.0  | 3.5      | 4.0      | 7.5      |          |
| 7. Capsella bursa-pastoris (L.) Med. | 10.5 | 0.5      | -        | 3.7      |          |
| 8. Papaver rhoeas L. | 10.5  | 2.5      | 6.0      | 6.3      |          |
| 9. Thlaspi arvense L. | 10.5  | 0.5      | -        | 3.7      |          |
| 10. Fallopia convolvulus (L.) A. Löve | 6.5  | 0.8      | 1.0      | 5.8      |          |
| 11. Polygonum aviculare L. | 6.5  | 1.5      | 0.5      | 2.8      |          |
| 12. Raphanus raphanistrum L. | 2.5  | 1.9      | 1.5      | 2.0      |          |
| 13. Apica spica-venti (L.) P.B. | 2.2  | -        | 0.2      | 0.8      |          |
| 14. Galinsoga parviflora Cav. | 2.2  | 2.5      | 5.0      | 3.2      |          |
| 15. Melandrium album (Mill.) Garcke | 1.8  | 0.5      | 2.0      | 1.4      |          |
| 16. Euphorbia helioscopia L. | 1.5  | -        | -        | 0.5      |          |
| 17. Sonchus oleraceus L. | 1.5  | 0.5      | -        | 0.7      |          |
| 18. Lamium amplexicaule L. | 1.2  | -        | -        | 0.4      |          |
| 19. Amaranthus retroflexus L. | 1.0  | 1.2      | 0.5      | 2.0      |          |
| 20. Poa annua L.     | 1.0   | 1.8      | 0.5      | 4.1      |          |
| 21. Anthemis arvensis L. | 0.8  | 0.5      | -        | 0.4      |          |
| 22. Viola arvensis Murr. | 0.8  | 0.8      | -        | 0.5      |          |
| 23. Sonchus asper (L.) Hill. | 0.5  | 0.2      | 1.2      | 0.6      |          |
| 24. Anagallis arvensis L. | 0.2  | 0.2      | 0.2      | 0.2      |          |
| 25. Atriplex patula L. | 0.2  | 0.2      | 0.2      | 0.2      |          |
| 26. Erodium cicutarium (L.) L’Herit | 0.2 | 0.2      | 0.2      | 0.2      |          |
| 27. Fumaria officinalis L. | 0.2  | 0.2      | -        | 0.1      |          |
| 28. Vicia villosa Roth. | -    | 0.5      | 1.3      | 0.6      |          |
| Number of annual weeds (I) | 163.8 | 36.1     | 50.9     | 95.5     |          |
| II. Perennial        |       |          |          |          |          |
| 29. Cirsium arvense (L.) Scop. | 5.4  | 2.2      | 1.8      | 3.1      |          |
| 30. Convolvulus arvensis L. | 3.0  | 0.2      | -        | 1.1      |          |
| 31. Elymus repens (L.) P.B. | 2.0  | -        | -        | 0.7      |          |
| Number of perennial weeds (II) | 10.4 | 2.4      | 1.8      | 4.9      |          |
| Total I + II         | 174.2 | 38.5     | 52.7     | -        |          |
| Number of species    | 30    | 26       | 19       | 31X      |          |

X number of species over the 3-year period
Weed infestation of a spring wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) crop under the conditions of plough and ploughless tillage

Table 5. Species composition and number of weeds per 1 m² in the spring wheat crop under the conditions of ploughless tillage

| Species composition | Years          | Mean  |
|---------------------|----------------|-------|
|                     | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| I. Annual           |       |      |      |
| 1. *Stellaria media* (L.) Vill. | 21.5 | 16.3 | 2.0  | 19.3 |
| 2. *Avena fatua* L. | 19.0 | 6.5  | 16.8 | 14.1 |
| 3. *Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.) P.B. | 12.5 | -    | 0.8  | 4.4  |
| 4. *Chenopodium album* L. | 12.4 | 11.5 | -    | 8.0  |
| 5. *Galium aparine* L. | 5.5  | 11.1 | 8.0  | 8.2  |
| 6. *Consolida regalis* Gray | 4.5  | -    | 0.2  | 1.6  |
| 7. *Papaver rhoeas* L. | 3.5  | 4.3  | 18.5 | 8.8  |
| 8. *Galeopsis tetrahit* L. | 2.5  | 0.9  | 3.2  | 2.2  |
| 9. *Melandrium album* (Mill.) Garcke | 2.5  | 1.1  | 3.0  | 2.2  |
| 10. *Polygonum aviculare* L. | 2.5  | 3.4  | -    | 2.0  |
| 11. *Anthemis arvensis* L. | 2.2  | 0.1  | -    | 0.8  |
| 12. *Capsella bursa-pastoris* (L.) Med. | 2.2  | 1.4  | -    | 1.2  |
| 13. *Amaranthus retroflexus* L. | 1.5  | 1.5  | 22.5 | 8.5  |
| 14. *Poa annua* L. | 1.5  | 1.4  | -    | 1.0  |
| 15. *Fallopia convolvulus* (L.) A. Löve | 1.0  | 1.6  | 16.8 | 9.5  |
| 16. *Sonchus oleraceus* L. | 1.0  | 0.1  | 2.2  | 1.1  |
| 17. *Anagallis arvensis* L. | 0.8  | 0.1  | 1.8  | 0.9  |
| 18. *Apera spica-venti* (L.) P.B. | 0.8  | 0.5  | 1.5  | 0.9  |
| 19. *Lapsana communis* L. | 0.8  | -    | 1.2  | 0.7  |
| 20. *Viola arvensis* Murr. | 0.8  | 0.4  | -    | 0.4  |
| 21. *Sonchus asper* (L.) Hill. | 0.5  | 0.1  | 4.0  | 1.5  |
| 22. *Veronica persica* Poir. | 0.5  | -    | 0.2  | 0.2  |
| 23. *Lamium amplexicaule* L. | 0.2  | -    | 0.5  | 0.2  |
| 24. *Thlaspi arvense* L. | 0.2  | 1.0  | -    | 0.4  |
| 25. *Fumaria officinalis* L. | -    | 0.2  | 0.8  | 0.3  |
| 26. *Euphorbia helioscopia* L. | -    | 0.2  | 0.5  | 0.2  |
| Number of annual weeds (I) | 100.4 | 63.7 | 104.5 | 98.6 |
| II. Perennial        |      |      |      |
| 27. *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop. | 0.5  | 0.2  | 1.8  | 0.8  |
| 28. *Convolvulus arvensis* L. | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.5  | 0.3  |
| 29. *Elymus repens* (L.) P.B. | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.2  |
| 30. *Sonchus arvensis* L. | 0.2  | 0.2  | 1.8  | 0.7  |
| Number of perennial weeds (II) | 1.1  | 0.8  | 4.3  | 2.0  |
| Total I + II        | 101.5 | 64.5 | 108.8 | -   |
| Number of species   | 28   | 25   | 23   | 30   |

X number of species over the 3-year period
### Spatial distribution of weeds in the spring wheat crop

| Species composition | Weed layer in the crop |
|---------------------|------------------------|
|                     | Plough tillage | Ploughless tillage |
| I. Upper layer       |              |                   |
| 1. *Apera spica-venti* (L.) P.B. | ++ | ++ |
| 2. *Avena fatua* L. | ++ | ++ |
| 3. *Consolida regalis* Gray | ++ | ++ |
| 4. *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop. | ++ | ++ |
| 5. *Papaver rhoeas* L. | ++ | ++ |
| 6. *Sonchus arvensis* L. | - | + |
| 7. *Sonchus asper* (L.) Hill | + | + |
| 8. *Sonchus oleraceus* L. | + | + |
| II. Middle layer     |              |                   |
| 9. *Elymus repens* (L.) P. B. | ++ | ++ |
| 10. *Amaranthus retroflexus* L. | ++ | ++ |
| 11. *Anthemis arvensis* L. | ++ | ++ |
| 12. *Atriplex patula* L. | + | - |
| 13. *Chenopodium album* L. | + | + |
| 14. *Convolvulus arvensis* L. | + | + |
| 15. *Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.) P.B. | - | + |
| 16. *Fallopia convolvulus* (L.) A. Löve | + | + |
| 17. *Galeopsis tetrahit* L. | + | + |
| 18. *Galium aparine* L. | + | + |
| 19. *Lapsana communis* L. | - | + |
| 20. *Melandrium album* (Mill.) Garcke | + | + |
| 21. *Raphanus raphanistrum* L. | + | - |
| 22. *Vicia villosa* Roth. | + | - |
| III. Lower layer     |              |                   |
| 23. *Capsella bursa-pastoris* (L.) Med. | + | + |
| 24. *Euphorbia helioscopia* L. | + | + |
| 25. *Erodium cicutarium* (L.) L’Herit | + | - |
| 26. *Fumaria officinalis* L. | + | + |
| 27. *Galinsoga parviflora* Cav. | + | - |
| 28. *Lamium amplexicaule* L. | + | + |
| 29. *Thlaspi arvense* L. | + | + |
| 30. *Viola arvensis* Murr. | + | + |
| IV. Ground layer     |              |                   |
| 31. *Anagallis arvensis* L. | + | + |
| 32. *Poa annua* L. | + | + |
| 33. *Polygonum aviculare* L. | + | + |
| 34. *Veronica persica* Poir. | - | + |
| 35. *Stellaria media* (L.) Vill. | + | + |
**DISCUSSION**

The literature on weed infestation of cereal plants is very wide and clearly shows significant relationships between crop weed infestation, soil diaspore bank, agricultural practices used, and habitat conditions (Feledyn-Szewczyk and Duer, 2007; Sekutowski and Rola, 2006; Wesołowski and Woźniak, 2001; Wrzesińska et al. 2003). An earlier study of Woźniak (2007), carried out under the same soil and habitat conditions, can complement the present study. It shows a great similarity between the soil seed bank and weed infestation of the crop. In the above cited study, the following weed species occurred in the greatest number: Chenopodium album L., Amaranthus retroflexus L., Stellaria media (L.) Vill., Galium aparine L., Viola arvensis Murr., and Avena fatua L.

It can be concluded on the basis of the present study that the tillage system (plough or ploughless tillage) slightly differentiated the number and species composition of weeds, but it significantly affected their air-dry weight. Weather conditions influenced the weed infestation measures to a much greater degree. High rainfall levels had an effect on the increase in the number and air-dry weight of weeds in both tillage systems, as compared to the seasons with lower rainfall levels. Moist soil and appropriately high temperature promote the emergence of weeds, hence their presence is then much higher than in the years with lower rainfall.

The studies of Dzienia and Dojss (1999) as well as of Wrzesińska et al. (2003) show that the variation in weed infestation between the plough and ploughless tillage systems is a result of different growth conditions that are created by both tillage systems. Under the conditions of ploughless tillage, fruits and seeds of weeds, freshly shed every year, fall onto the soil surface, where they germinate and emerge under favourable conditions. In plough tillage, in turn, during tillage procedures they are moved from the field surface into the deeper soil layers and, at the same time, from the deeper layers onto the soil surface. In the present study, species of the upper layer made up a large group (22.9%), that is, those which mature most frequently before the harvest of wheat and which thereby infest the soil, as well as weeds of the lower and ground layers (37.1%) which mature and shed seeds in the stubble field, also increasing the soil diaspore bank. However, weeds of the middle layer made up the largest group (40%); most of them mature at the same time as spring wheat and they infest primarily seed material as well as the soil.

**CONCLUSIONS**

1. The values of the measures of spring wheat weed infestation, i.e. number and air-dry weight of weeds per 1 m² as well as weed species composition, varied in individual study years. Higher values of these parameters were found in the years with higher rainfall totals.
2. Compared to plough tillage, ploughless tillage significantly increased air-dry weight of weeds in the spring wheat crop. The tillage system under comparison did not differentiate the number of weeds per 1 m².
3. Spring wheat sown using the plough tillage system was colonized most extensively by the following weed species: Avena fatua L., Stellaria media (L.) Vill., Galium aparine L., Chenopodium album L., and Consolida regalis Gray. In the ploughless tillage treatments, the following weeds were predominant: Stellaria media (L.) Vill., Avena fatua L., Fallopia convolvulus (L.) A. Löve, Papaver rhoes L., Amaranthus retroflexus L., Galium aparine L., and Chenopodium album L.

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Zachwaszczenie lanu pszenicy jarej (*Triticum aestivum* L.) w warunkach płuźnej i bezpłuźnej uprawy roli

**S t r e s z c z e n i e**

Doświadczenie polewo prowadzono w latach 2007-2009 w Gospodarstwie Doświadczalnym Uhrusk (województwo lubelskie) należącym do Uniwersytetu Przyrodniczego w Lublinie. Czynniki doświadczalne były zróżnicowane systemy uprawy roli – płuźny i bezpłuźny. W systemie płuźnym uprawa roli polegała na wykonaniu po zbiorze przedplonu pielęgnowanej podorywki oraz orki przedzimowej. W systemie bezpłuźnym zastosowano po zbiorze przedplonu jedynie herbicyd Roundup 360 SL (s.a. glifosat). Wiosenna uprawa roli w obu systemach polegała na kultywatorze pola oraz zastosowaniu zestawu uprawowego złożonego z kultywatora, wału strunowego i brony. W doświadczeniu oceniono zachwaszczenie lanu wyrażone liczbą i powietrzną masą chwastów oraz ich składem gatunkowym. Wykazano, że w warunkach bezpłuźnej uprawy roli istotnie wzrosła powietrzną masę chwastów w lanie pszenicy jarej, w stosunku do uprawy płuźnej. Porównywane systemy uprawy roli nie różniły liczby chwastów na 1 m². Pszenica jara wysiewana w warunkach płuźnej uprawy roli najliczniej była zasiedlana przez: *Avena fatua* L., *Stellaria media* (L.) Vill., *Galium aparine* L., *Amaranthus retroflexus* L., *Chenopodium album* L. i *Convolvulus arvensis* L., *Papaver rhoeas* L., *Amaranthus retroflexus* L., *Galium aparine* L. i *Chenopodium album* L.