



Weed of The Week

Broadleaf Dock (*Rumex obtusifolia*)

This week's weed of the week features a weed that will crowd out your forages and wreak havoc on pastures. Broadleaf Dock is a rosette forming perennial weed that is widely dispersed throughout the United States and Ohio. Most commonly found in the southeast portion of Ohio on poor unglaciated soils. This weed is known for its wide leaves and deep tap root that makes it a challenge to control. Broadleaf Dock is found growing in low disturbed crop fields, pastures, and hayfields. Forming a tap root that can reach depths up to 5 feet deep this weed is a challenge to get a handle on with both herbicide and tillage. Broadleaf Dock has a unique way of reproducing, rather than a true flower that produces nectar that is pollinated by insects like bees and others, this weed has what is called reproductive stems that are pollinated by the wind. Pollination and fruit set occurs from June to early September. Small three-winged fruits surround a very small seed and is easily transported by wind and water. One Broadleaf Dock can produce up to 60,000 seeds and studies show that seeds can be viable up to 80 years. Control of Broadleaf Dock is critical in pastures and hay field due to its ability to shade out desirable forage species, if livestock consume large amounts of the Broadleaf Dock, digestive disruption can occur due to natural laxative properties in the leaf. Good grazing management is critical in preventing Broadleaf Dock from becoming established in pastures. Good forage stands will decrease establishment of this weed. Deep tillage has been somewhat effective in reducing populations. GrazonNextHL, 2-4-D, and Chaparral are very effective in control during the rosette stage of growth.

