



Weed of The Week

Broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*.)

I would consider this one of Adams Counties top destructive weeds to pasture and forage land. Broomsedge often referred to as poverty grass can be very detrimental to a good forage stand or pasture. Broomsedge is a clump forming perennial grass can be found growing in pastures, meadows, roadsides, and low fertile waist areas. Broomsedge is often overlooked by producers until late in the summer and early fall as it turns from light green to its distinctive orange/brown color in the fall. Broomsedge reproduces mostly from seed but can also reproduce by short rhizomes (underground modified stems). This weed will reach height of 2-4 feet tall producing 2-4 flower stalks with white fluffy seeds that will disperse in the late July to Early October. Broomsedge has no known toxicities to livestock, but palatability is very low. Maintaining a soil PH of 6.5 to 7.0 and Phosphorus levels of 20 ppm or 40 pounds/acre goes along ways in controlling this weed. There is no known toxicity to livestock but has poor nutrition and palatability. Proper grazing management will also keep this plant from becoming established in your pastures, maintaining a grazing height of 4-5 inches minimum. Clipping pastures in late summer early fall, just before the plant makes a seed head will also reduce plant vigor and population overtime. Applying 60 units of nitrogen in the fall has also shown good results in allowing other cool season grasses to become more competitive with Broomsedge.

