

Weed of The Week

Broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*)

This week's weed of the week should be considered Adams County's county weed. Broomsedge often referred to as poverty grass can be very detrimental to a good forage stand or pasture. Broomsedge can be found growing in pastures, meadows, roadsides, and low fertile waist areas. This clump forming grass has a very 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 a height of 2-4 feet tall producing 2-4 flower stalks with white fluffy seeds that will disperse in 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. Proper grazing management will also keep this plant from becoming established in you pastures, maintaining a grazing heigh 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.

