



Weed of The Week

Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)

This weed can be a thorny nuisance if found growing in your crop field, hay fields, gardens, and pastures. A member of the Sunflower family, Canada thistle can be found growing throughout the majority of Ohio. Canada Thistle was thought to have been brought to the United States through contaminated seed during the early 1700s. This weed can be quite troublesome due to its large root system that contains rhizomes (underground modified stems) allowing it to propagate from the roots. Canada Thistle will germinate mid to late April and flowering will begin late May and last to early August, producing a lavender colored flower. This plant is dioecious in nature meaning there is male plant and female plant. Both plants need to be relatively near to each other for pollination to occur. Reproduction occurs from both seed and roots, production of over 1500 seeds per plant can occur. Controlling Canada Thistle can be quite Challenging due to its nature and aggressive growth habit. Shallow Cultivation should be avoided due to rhizomes being stimulated when broken up by disking or cultivating. Repeated aggressive mowing just as the plant begins to flower can be successful in limiting growth and spread in a pasture and hay habitat. For row crop production Herbicides such as 2-4-D, Roundup or Gluphosinate burndown. Residual herbicides for corn include Atrazine, and Sure Start, for soybeans Metribuzin and Valor can be effective residuals used in soybean production.

