



Weed of The Week

Common Burdock (*Arctium minus*)

A member of the sunflower family and known for its bristly burs. This week's weed of the week features Common Burdock, brought to North America by early French and English colonist. Burdock can be found growing throughout the eastern United States, suitable to many different soil types this weed can be found growing in row crop fields, pastures, and waist areas. Common Burdock is a biannual meaning that the plant will grow slowly the first year producing a Rossett then bolting and producing seed the second year of growth. The bottom leaves are very wide in growth and hairy on the underside of the leaf. Stalks of the leaves are hollow. Common Burdock will produce a purple tubular shaped flower, later producing seeds coated by a bure type fruit with hooked bristles that can easily attach to hair and clothing. Flowering and seed set takes place from early June to late July and one plant can produce 15,000 seeds. Controlling this weed can be done by mechanical, cultural, and chemical methods. Proper grazing, good fertility, and good forage stands can prevent this weed from getting established in pastures. Tillage and herbicides such as 2-4-D, Dicamba, Glyphosate, and Gluphosinate can be very effective in row crop fields.

