



## Weed of The Week

### Common Ragweed ( *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* )

With the fall season often comes seasonal allergic rhinitis, more commonly referred to as hay fever. The cause of hay fever is the multiple species of ragweed found native to North America. In Ohio, we have two species of ragweed: common and giant. Both of these species tend to wreak havoc on agricultural production. Common ragweed grows 2-6 feet in height. A single common ragweed plant can produce anywhere from 30,000-60,000 seeds. Common ragweed is a summer annual plant. Common ragweed can thrive in lower fertility soils and due to its early emergence and upright growth, it can compete well with most crops. Ragweed starts blooming in the late summer, usually in August, and goes through till November, with the highest pollen month being September. Ragweed has small inconspicuous flowers that are of a green yellow color. They are so small that they appear to look like small yellowish bumps. The leaves of common ragweed are made up of multiple leaflets with a feathery, fern like appearance. These leaflets are roughly 6 inches long and 4 inches across.

Common ragweed was one of the first weeds to develop herbicide resistance, which can make management a little more of a challenge. There are documented cases of resistance to ALS inhibitors (Group 2, e.g. Classic and Pursuit), Photosystem II inhibitors (Group 5, e.g. atrazine), EPSP synthase inhibitors (Group 9, e.g. glyphosate), and PPO inhibitors (Group 14, e.g. Flexstar and Cobra). The early emergence pattern of ragweed allows it to grow to heights that can be difficult to control when crops are planted. Single applications of any single pre- or postemergent herbicide will not provide season-long control of ragweed. Successful common ragweed management programs must include both pre- and postemergent applications, with at least two effective herbicide sites of action.

