



Weed of The Week

3-15-2021

Cressleaf Groundsel (*Senecio glabellus*)

Another common name for this week's weed of the week is butterweed and is currently listed as one of Ohio's Noxious weeds due to its poisonous characteristics. Cressleaf Groundsel is a winter annual meaning it starts growth in the fall and blooms and produces seed in early spring. Flowering will take place in early May and the life cycle will end by the end of May. This time of year is good time to scout for this weed because it is starting to break dormancy. Young seedlings will have rounded tipped lobed leaves with a purplish tint. When Cressleaf Groundsel matures the flower will be a bright yellow with $\frac{1}{4}$ inch size petals and grouped together in clusters. Another key identifier of Cressleaf Groundsel is that the main stem will be hollow. Cressleaf Groundsel grows in many environments, but most found growing in minimal tillage crop fields, perennial hay fields, and pastures. One of the main concerns with Cressleaf Groundsel is the potential to poison livestock if consumed. Toxins called pyrrolizidine alkaloids. In most cases livestock will not consume Cressleaf Groundsel unless there is little to nothing else to eat, mixed in hay or silage, or under drought conditions. Controlling Cressleaf Groundsel in forage stands or pastures should be top priority, preventing the plant with reproducing, mowing in the spring often before flowering takes place can be a good means of control. Applying herbicides such as 2-4-D at 1 quart/acre, mixing dicamba products such as banvel and Clarity will enhance control but will be detrimental to clovers in the pastures. For alfalfa/grass hay stands Sencor 75DF at 1.3 pounds/acre applied in Late February and early March when the alfalfa is still dormant. Pursuit can also be used in Grass and Alfalfa mixed hay stands.

