

Weed of The Week

3-8-2021

Crownvetch (*Securigera varia*)

This week's weed of the week can be considered a good forage for livestock and has become a popular choice for many row crop farmers as a cover crop. If not managed properly Crownvetch can present major issues in row crops and gardens. Crownvetch is relatively new to North America being imported from Europe to be used as grown cover to reduce erosion in the 1950's. This perennial weed is part of the bean family and is considered a legume. Crownvetch will produce a pink and white flower cluster during late June through mid-August, reproducing by seed and rootstock. The main concern with this weed is that it can spread very quickly and inhibit growth of other valuable crops and forage species. Mowing has little effects on controlling Crownvetch and can stimulate growth. Deep tillage or intensive tillage can be a good means of control. Minimum tillage or light discing should be avoided because this will stimulate new growth and aid in dispersion. Herbicides such as glyphosate, 2-4-D, Dicamba, Glufosinate, have good results in row crop setting, 2-4-D, Triclopyr, Grazeon, and pasture guard are effective herbicides for pasture and hayfields.

