



## Weed of The Week

### Eastern Black Nightshade (*Solanum ptycanthum* Dun.)

This week's weed of the week features a toxic summer annual that all livestock producers should become familiar with. Eastern Black Nightshade is a summer annual weed that in some environments can act as a perennial. Eastern Black Nightshade can be found growing in cultivated crop fields and pastures, preferring well drained fertile soils. Reproduction is by seed and flowering will begin in mid-June and continue through the summer season. Flowers from Black Nightshade resembles flowers produced by tomatoes. Eastern Black Nightshade will produce small tomato like fruit clusters that will turn black as the plant matures. Eastern Black Nightshade is a poisonous plant that contains glycoalkaloids that remains in the plant even after cutting and drying as hay, the only part of the plant that is not poisonous is the fruit. Controlling Eastern Black Nightshade should start with prevention with a good fertility program and making soil PH is close to 7.0. Preventing the spread of Black Nightshade by cleaning mowing equipment and harvesting equipment. Repeatedly mowing Black Nightshade before seed production can reduce weed population. Tillage in row crops can incorporate seed deep enough to reduce germination. Herbicides that have good ratings in pastures and hay production include, Milestone, GrazonNext HL, and Chaparral, remember to read and follow the label completely.

