



Weed of The Week

Fall Panicum (*Panicum dichotomiflorum*.)

This week's weed of the week is often associated with the beginning of fall, but the reality is that this weed is a summer plant that loves the heat and your corn field! Fall Panicum is a summer annual grass that can be found growing most anywhere, from crop field to hay fields and even pastures this weed can be a big yield robber. Fall Panicum primarily reproduces by seed, one plant can produce up to 500,000 seeds and seed can germinate up to 3 inches deep! Not only can Fall Panicum seed germinate at deep depths, but they can also be very viable seeds. Research has shown that seeds from this weed can germinate after 10 years of being buried in the soil. Fall Panicum germinates in late June and will start flowering from late July through September. The first frost usually halts the growth of fall panicum, but plants have been shown to survive well into the month of November. Fall panicum can be a challenge to control in pasture and hay fields but good establishment of forages can prevent growth and an adequate cutting schedule will reduce seed production. In pasture the main goal is to prevent growth by proper grazing practices grazing forages to low in the spring can give fall panicum room to grow, allowing forages to rest and recover can prevent growth. Clipping Fall Panicum at boot stage or before seeds develop can reduce populations over time. For corn and soybeans, early tillage should be deep, Fall Panicum seedlings can be controlled with light tillage. Herbicides can be effective but should be done when the weed is in the seedling stage. Very few residuals will last long enough to take care of late germinating seedlings, Glyphosate or glufosinate works very well for post application in both crops.

