



Weed of The Week

Giant Foxtail (*Setaria faberi* Herrm)

This week's weed of the week features a hay producers' worst nightmare. Giant Foxtail is a summer annual weed that germinated late spring and midsummer. This weed is very competitive with other forages and can especially be an issue for first year seedlings. Giant Foxtails main form of reproduction is by seed creating a bristly foxtail appearance seed head that will drop 900-2500 seed per plant. Seeds of this weed have a short longevity but can still build up in the seed banks making it an issue for future crops. Giant foxtail grows best in cultivated, compacted, and fertile soils with high amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus. Controlling Giant Foxtail can be done in many ways, but the main form of control should involve prevention. Utilizing crop rotations, mechanical control or incorporating seeds deep in the soil horizon, and chemical control. Controlling Giant Foxtail in grass hay or mixed hay stands can be a challenge but aggressive mowing before seed set can reduce stands and prevent new growth. For legume hay such as alfalfa or clover herbicides such as Clethodim, Metribuzin, Poast, and warrant can be very effective.

