



Weed of The Week

Golden Rod (*Solidago Canadensis*.)

Fields are turning gold as we approach fall, this week's weed of the week features a plant that can be considered a wildflower and a great pollinator plant. Part of the sunflower family, Goldenrod is native to North America mainly in the northeastern portion of the United States. Goldenrod can be found growing in pastures, idle fields, open woodlands, and roadsides. Goldenrod is a perennial that reproduces by seed and short rhizomes (underground modified stems). Goldenrod does not like disturbance, so it grows very well in perennial hay and pastures. Goldenrod will begin flowering in mid-August through the month of October and produce up to 3,000 seeds per plant. Seeds contain a pappus at the tip of the seed allowing the seed to be dispersed by wind. Controlling golden rod in pastures should start with good grazing management. Goldenrod grows very well where the soil is open to sunlight. Allowing forage to recover after grazing and proper fertility management is critical in preventing goldenrod establishment. Mowing before plants begin to flower can exhaust the root system and prevent newly established plants. Herbicides that work well in pasture setting are 2-4-D, dicamba, crossbow, and spot treatments with glyphosate.

