



## Weed of The Week

### Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*)

This week's weed of the week features a lawn owners' nightmare. A member of the mint family, this weed is often found growing in lawns, turf, roadsides, pastures, and open woodlands. Ground Ivy was brought to the United States by early settlers and now is spread throughout most of the northeastern U.S. Ground ivy is a perennial with creeping stems that create a thick mat that can easily crowd out other desirable species. A key identifier of ground ivy is the presence of the square stem and two leaves at each node. Leaves are kidney shaped and the edge of the leaf is scalloped. Reproduction occurs from flowering and creeping stems that will spread throughout the surface of the soil. Ground Ivy can be toxic to livestock if ingested but most livestock do not like the taste of the plant. Control is very difficult due to its multiple ways of spreading and reproducing. In turf production the complete top layer of soil which contains roots, seeds, and stems must be removed. Hand pulling should be avoided due to disturbing creeping stems, spurring growth. In pastures good fertility and grazing management practices will keep Ground Ivy at bay. Herbicide use of Triclopyr and 2-4-D mixed show good results. Also, products containing dicamba will help suppress this weed, as always make sure to read the label before using.

