



Weed of The Week

Joepyeweed (*Eupatorium* spp.)

This week's weed of the week is a member of the sunflower family and can be confused with poison hemlock due to size, flower style, and markings on the stalk of the plant. Joepyeweed is native to North America and very common in the eastern half the United States. Often found growing in low disturbed areas that are moist or poorly drained. Swampy areas, wet meadows, and creek bottoms are very conducive environments for this weed. Joepyeweed is a perennial and considered an herb that have opposite positioned leaves congregated close to the top of the flower or upper portion of the plant. Flowers of this weed consist of 8-10 tubular flowers grouped in a slender dome shaped terminal cluster. Reproduction of this weed can be from seed production and its rhizome root system (underground modified stems). Reproduction takes place from August to late September. One special characteristic of this weed is its attractiveness to pollinators especially butterflies and bees. There is no known toxicity characteristics to this plant and is very uncommon for livestock to consume unless no other forage or feed is available to the animal. There are multiple sub species of Joepyeweed such as Sweet Joepyeweed, Spotted Joepyeweed, Hollow Joepyeweed, and 50 other common species. Controlling Joepyeweed starts with management, improving soil drainage, mowing several times throughout the growing season, especially before flower production and seed set. Deep tillage can also be a form of control.

