

Weed of The Week

Pokeweed

The large weed can be a pig pain in a crop field and pasture. With its large stalk and staining berries. If this weed is numerous in corn and soybean fields the fruit can add moisture and even stain the seed. Pokeweed is a large perennial weed that can grow up to 10' tall and a very large taproot system making it very challenging to control. Pokeweed prefers light texture soils that are well drained. Some good identifiers of this weed is the large purple stalk with lanced leaf leaves with grape like clusters of berries. This weed germinates in late spring and usually flowers between August and September. The seed can remain viable in the soil for 40 years! Pokeweed can be toxic to both humans and livestock if consumed. The roots are the most poisonous part of this plant, but the leaves and berries are also toxic. An interesting fact is that pokeweed juice was used by Native American for ink and paint. Pokeweed can be controlled easier with herbicide when the plant is young. Deep tillage will control by incorporating the seed to depths that make it impossible to germinate. Herbicides in corn include collisto, beacon, 2-4-D, glyphosate (roundup ready corn only) in soybeans Glyphosate (roundup ready soybeans only) first rate, classic can be options for control. 2-4-D, grazon, chapparal, and pasture guard are all good choices for pastures.

