



## Weed of The Week

### Powell Amaranth (*Amaranthus powellii*.)

No, it is not water hemp or palmer amaranth but can be just as destructive to your crop yields if you allow this week's weed of the week become established in your fields. Powell Amaranth is this week's weed of the week and a member of the pigweed family, a summer annual this weed emerges late spring and produces seed in the summer months before releasing seed and dying off in the fall. One Powell Amaranth plant can produce up to 35,000 seeds! Seeds and persist in the soil for 3 years and still germinate 50% of the time, it takes 20 years for a seed to become completely unviable. Seeds from this weed germinate best when sustained in top 1/2 inch of soil, when buried deeper germination rate greatly decreases. Powell Amaranth grows very well in compacted soils and soils rich in fertility, they can grow very well with most of our row crops and can tolerate shading from crop canopy. Management of Powell Amaranth takes many tools and depending on just one type of management strategy will not work and this includes all pigweed species. Mechanical control through tillage as long as tillage incorporated the top 2 inches of soil, this includes ripping/chiseling or deep plowing. Cultural Controls such as crop rotation with cereal grains or perennial forages can help reduce populations of this weed but the best control comes from rotations longer than 2 years. Planting crops early can also favor crops getting ahead of the weed, making it more competitive. Chemical control can be successful with residual herbicides being the focus, since these weeds grow very fast getting ahead of growth is important. Post emerge applications should be done before the plant reaches 4+ inches tall, to learn more about herbicides option you can go to your local extension office and order the OSU Weed Control Guide or go to <http://u.osu.edu/osuweeds> this is The Ohio State Weed Science Website.

