



## Weed of The Week

### Purple Dead Nettle (*Lamium purpureum*)

It's back and earlier than ever! As I conduct my travels across the county, I have noticed an old friend has returned to the fields. Purple dead nettle is back and a little earlier than normal due to the warmer-than-average winter season southern Ohio has experienced. Purple dead nettle is a member of the mint family having a square stem as a key identifier. Purple dead nettle will produce a triangle-shaped leaf opposite from each other. Producing a bright purple or lavender-colored flower in mid-March through the first of April. It produces a large number of small seeds deposited on the surface of the soil. No-till practices in row crop production have created a perfect environment for this winter annual due to its tendency to produce a lot of seeds that will germinate on the surface of the soil. Cultivation will reduce the population of these weeds due to the incorporation of the seed deeper in the soil profile. Purple dead nettle and many other winter annual weeds can harbor pests during the winter. One pest of importance is Soybean Cyst Nematodes. Methods of controlling this weed can be deep tillage such as chisel plowing or deep discing. The best means of controlling Purple Deadnettle is with a Fall herbicide treatment. If a fall herbicide treatment was not done in early spring burndown of 2-4-D + Glyphosate works well. Also, Gluphosinate (liberty) works very well. Purple Deadnettle is a concern for harboring pests that can cause yield reduction in row crops but on the other hand, they also provide a good source of early food to pollinators like honeybees, bumble bees, carpenter bees, and many more.

