



## Weed of The Week

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

This week's weed of the week features Purple Dead Nettle, this weed is a winter annual that germinates in the fall and is currently turning the fields a bright purple. This weed is in the mint family having a square stem. Purple deadnettle will produce triangle shaped leaves opposite from each other. Producing a bright purple to lavender colored flower in mid-March through the first of April and producing many small seeds deposited on the surface of the soil. No-till practices in row crop production has 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 this weeds due to the incorporation of the seed deeper in the soil profile. Purple dead nettle and many other winter annual weeds can harbor pest 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 Dead Nettle is with a Fall herbicide treatment. If a fall herbicide treatment was not done, an early spring burndown of 2-4-D + Glyphosate works well. Also, Glufosinate (liberty) works very well. Purple Dead Nettle is a concern for harboring pest 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.

