



Weed of The Week

Purple Deadnettle (*Lamium purpureum*)

Purple deadnettle is a winter annual weed in the mint family. While the odor of this plant is not as strong as mint, it is still a mild, but noticeable scent. This plant has a few look-alikes, the major one being henbit, also in the mint family. This weed can easily reach heights of 16-18". Purple deadnettle has triangular to heart-shaped leaves that overlap and appear crowded near the upper part of the stem. The leaves are purple to red in color near the upper part of the stem. The lower leaves are dark green, larger, and have longer petioles. The stem is four-sided as with most members of the mint family. Flowers on purple deadnettle are a light purple to pink color.

Purple deadnettle thrives in areas where the soil has been disturbed, such as gardens, fields, and along buildings. This weed is more noticeable during winters with moderate weather conditions. Purple deadnettle is an early feed source for our pollinators. This weed does compete for space in lawns. Hand-weeding is effective in smaller areas with young plants. Increasing turf density can help keep this weed from taking over in a lawn. If chemical treatment is needed, the herbicide Q4 can control actively growing winter annuals in lawns. It is best to treat in the fall when plants actively store winter energy. Tillage and cultivation do offer some mechanical control of this weed for gardens as it germinates at shallow depths. This weed can be controlled with postemergence herbicide products with one or more active ingredients: 2, 4-D, MCPP (mecoprop), Dicamba*, or Triclopyr. Be sure to follow all labels when applying any herbicide treatments.

