



## Weed of The Week

### Red Top Grease Grass (*Tridens flavus*.)

This week's weed of the week features a native grass that can give your pastures and hay fields a red tint in color during the late summer and early fall. Red Top grease grass is a perennial, warm season, native grass that can be found growing in newly established hay fields, roadsides, pastures, and idle fields. This grass has a flashy red seed head that is oily in texture hence the name grease grass. Often referred as red top, this grass can be a prolific seed producer, quickly becoming established within cool season forages during the dormant season of summer. Red Top Grease grass can reach heights of 3-5' and reproduces in late August through late October or first frost. This grass is known for its wildlife benefits, especially for birds and deer. The little forage that this plant produces has little benefit to livestock and usually is not consumed due to its poor palatability. One feature that make this plant unique is that can grow in very high PH soils and salty soils. Controlling this plant can be done by tillage, and mowing before the plant reproduces, multiple mowing will be needed to have complete control. Glyphosate will have good control but will kill other grasses in the pasture. Mowing, good fertility program, and good grazing practices usually keep this weed at bay in the pasture

