



Weed of The Week

Shepherd's Purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*)

This week's weed of the week features a common winter annual that can be found growing in our crop fields and even hay fields. Germination takes place in late summer and early fall producing a basal rosette with small round leaves eventually lengthening and developing deep lobes. Shepherd's Purse reproduces by seed creating a small white flower in mid-April through early May. Producing several small heart shaped or even referred to as a shepherds purse seed pouch. Like most winter annuals this plant rapidly grows in the spring and dies off very quickly. Methods of control have the best results when taken in the fall due to its rapid growth in the spring. Fall applications of 2-4-D, Dicamba, Sharpen, and Canopy/Cloak is very effective. Spring burndown applications Glyphosate, Glufosinate, and 2-4-D works well (but timing is an issue). Deeper tillage can reduce population by incorporating the small seed deeper in the soil horizon.

