



Weed of The Week

St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*.)

This week's weed of the week features a weed that is nothing to mess around with! St. Johnswort is a perennial weed that has a shrubby growth habit and develops woody stems. Brought to North America by early settlers, this weed can be found growing throughout the east and even on the west coast. St Johnswort grows best in rich, well drained soils that are undisturbed. Grasslands, pastures, and open wooded areas are common growing sites St. Johnswort thrives in. Some key identifiers of this weed are its woody like stem, narrow leaves with small clear pen hole like dots. The flower of St. Johnswort is yellow, about 1 inch in diameter and contain 5 petals with black dots around the margins of the leaf. Flowering will begin in late June and continue through the month of September producing up to 100,000 seeds per growing season! St Johnswort grows in in large patches and can easily crowd out desirable species. Light skinned humans and livestock can have severe reactions when coming in contact with this weed. Livestock that ingest St. Johnswort can become very sensitive to sunlight resulting in skin irritations such as burns or rashes. Most commonly livestock will not consume St. Johnswort unless there is nothing else to eat. Good pasture management is critical in preventing growth and spread of this weed. St. Johnswort does not tolerate heavy disturbance such as deep tillage. Herbicides that have been found to be effective are 2-4-D, glyphosate Tryclopypyr, and Aminopyralids (milestone).

