



Weed of The Week

Stinkgrass (*Eragrostis cilianensis*.)

This week's weed of the week is a stinky one that you don't want in your pastures or hay fields. Stinkgrass, sometimes referred to as lovegrass is a summer annual grass that was accidentally introduced to North America from Eurasia and now can be found growing throughout most of the United States. Stinkgrass prefers growing in sandy and well-drained soils. This plant can become established in pastures, fallow fields, roadsides, cropland, and gardens. This plant is noted for its foul odor when crushed or disturbed. Another important fact about Stinkgrass is that it can be poisonous to livestock if ingested, and horses are especially sensitive. Some key Identifiers of this plant include its leaf blades that are smooth and glossy on the underside and rough on the top surface. This plant resembles many of the bluegrasses due to its silver greyish blue seed head or panicle. One way to identify stinkgrass from bluegrass is its hairy ligule. Germination of this plant will begin in early May and produce a seed head and developed seed by early summer. The growth height of this plant can reach 2 -3 ft tall and can resist close mowing and close grazing. Some ways Stinkgrass can be controlled is to have a good fertility program and make sure your soil has a PH range between 6.5-7.0. Proper grazing management and establishing healthy stands of forage can keep this plant from getting established. Since Stinkgrass is a summer annual, it will die after the first frost, but it is important to prevent seed drop. Herbicides such as glyphosate and glufosinate can be used as spot treatments in pasture or whole-field applications in new seedings.

