



## Weed of The Week

### Tall Ironweed ( *Veronia gigantea* )

The goliath of pasture weeds, standing heads above the rest in the world of pasture weeds. Tall Ironweed is part of the sunflower family and is native to North America. This upright perennial can grow to heights of 7+ feet tall with very strong woody like stems that can turn dark red as the plant matures. Tall Ironweed produces a flat-topped saucer-shaped clusters of flowers that are purple in color. Flowering will begin in Mid-July and continue through October producing 6000 to 19000 seeds per plant. Tall Ironweed seed will lose viability with the first 7 months if incorporated into the soil. Controlling this weed can be a challenge due to the plants large root system and ability to produce a lot of seed. The name of the game is to prevent seed production. Mowing can help suppress this weed but has little effect on population amounts. Good fertility program is important for the control of this weed. Herbicide's treatments in Mid to late August seems to have the best results. Herbicides that can be used are Crossbow, pasture guard, and grazeonNext.

