

Weed of The Week

Velvet Leaf

8-26-2020

This weed of the week can be quite handy when nature calls while you are out in nature. The name of this weed describes the texture of the leaf, it is soft as velvet. Velvet Leaf is a summer annual that usually goes to seed in late summer and early fall. Seeds from this plant can be viable for over 50 years in the soil. Plants can reach heights of up to 5 feet. Making it a competitor for crops like soybeans. Velvet leaf plants have a large broad leaf that is a heart shape with fine hairs that cover the outer leaf. Velvet leaf has been known to carry many diseases that hinder crop growth, so it is important to take this weed seriously. Since velvet leaf is a summer annual, germination will take place later in the season. So, if you have a velvet leaf issue waiting until later in May to plant soybeans would allow burndown herbicides such as sharpen and 2-4-D to control young seedlings. If velvet leaf is emerging in growing soybean fields post emergent application of .75-1.5 lbs. of glyphosate in round up ready crops. In liberty Link crops, 29-36 oz/ acre will work. Other herbicides such as First rate, Classic, Harmony have shown to work well.

