



Weed of The Week

Volunteer Corn (*Zea Maize*.)

Is it a weed or a crop? That is a question to ponder on about this week's weed of the week. The answer is that Volunteer Corn is both, a crop gone rogue can be a good definition. With much of the corn crop still standing in the field and numerous issues with poor stalk quality and lodging issues many producers might want to incorporate volunteer corn management into their 2022 weed control program. The big issue with volunteer corn is its capability to compete very well with the next crop, no matter if that be soybeans or corn again. Volunteer corn has the same genetic packages that the parent corn had, this means that if you raise roundup ready corn or liberty link corn meaning post emergent applications of glyphosate or glufosinate will not control it. The best means of controlling volunteer corn is by using an early pre-emerge herbicide and incorporating a grass controlling herbicide into your burndown program when the small corn plants are small or just emerging. Volunteer corn control in soybeans can be successful by using products such as Assure II, Select Max, or clethodim. For corn crops, controlling volunteer corn can be almost impossible without rotating genetic packages such as growing non-gmo one season then rotating to glyphosate or glufosinate resistance the next season. Prevention of volunteer corn can be achieved by making sure to grow corn with good standability, harvesting on time, grazing livestock on corn residue following harvest, and adjusting combine properly to avoid harvest loss.

