

Weed of The Week

Wild Garlic (*Allium vineale*)

This weed of the week brings back memories of walking in front of the combine during wheat harvest pulling up Wild Garlic. For wheat growers this weed can be enemy #1 due to docks awarded by the elevators when grain samples are contaminated with Wild Garlic. Wild Garlic is a member of the Lilly Family that can be found growing throughout all Ohio. This grass like bulb producing perennial weed prefers small grain fields, pastures, and meadows. Wild Garlic reproduces by the underground storage structures called bulbs. The flower of this plant is a real bulb that is very easy to identify and when crushed, gives off a strong garlic odor. When bulblets are processed with wheat to make flour the flour can have a garlic taste. For dairy producers this can be an issue during the spring grazing season. When consumed by lactating cattle milk will have a garlic smell and taste. Wild Garlic is not an easy weed to control but proper crop rotation and grazing practices can reduce populations over time. 2-4-D can be an effective herbicide applied in late winter early spring. Harmony + 2-4-D is a good mixture during wheat tillering but before jointing.

