



Weed of The Week

Wild Radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*.)

The question at hand is it a weed or edible vegetable? Wild radish is this week's weed of the week. It's a member of the brassica family such as our traditional garden radishes, turnips, and mustards. This weed is a winter annual featuring a very large taproot that is much more winter hard than our traditional oil seed radishes used for cover crops. Wild radish seed will germinate when soil temperatures fall below 65 degrees. After germination of the seed the plant will create a rosette during the winter small, serrated leaves of the wild radish is covered with fine small hairs that have a bristly feel. As the days grow warmer and longer in the spring the plant will then bolt and grow upwards reaching heights of 2-2.5' tall and then produce small slender flowers that are most commonly yellow but can be white too. Each wild radish plant can produce multiple seed pods that contain 4-9 seeds per pod. When seed pods fall off the plant, the pod must degrade before releasing the seed. Wild radish can be a nuisance weed in cereal grains such as wheat, oats, barley, and more. Prevention of establishment and reproduction should be first considered. Buying certified seed is a good practice to prevent wild radish from getting established. Deep tillage can be effective but shallow tillage can help spread the seed and break open seed pods. Mowing before wild radish produces seed can help in preventing reproduction. Chemical control can be very effective with the use of 2-4-D, glyphosate, and glufosinate in the burndown the fall before row crops or in early spring.

