



## Weed of The Week

### Wirestem Muhly (*Muhlenbergia fondosa*.)

This perennial grass species that can be a tough weed to cut through or get a handling on in row crops. Wirestem Muhly is a warm season grass that can be very problematic in corn, soybean, and hay production. Growth begins in late spring and continues through early fall making it a challenge to get control of. Plants can reach heights of 1-2 feet in height and feature very stiff stems that have a wire like appearance and texture. Wirestem Muhly has a pale green color and produces multiple seed heads that are light grey to silver in color. Reproduction is mainly from seed but also by rhizomes (underground modified stems) making it even more challenging to control. Seed production takes place in August through late October. Prevention of seed production and distribution is key in getting control of this weed. Seed and rhizomes can be spread field to field by tillage and mowing equipment, sanitation of harvesting and tillage equipment is critical. Light tillage should be avoided unless used in combination with herbicides. Good fertility and vigorous plant growth and canopy closure are good ways to restrict growth. Herbicides that can be used in corn and soybeans include glyphosate, or glufosinate when plants are less than 8 inches in height. For Hay producers' chemical control is limited, the best means of control is proper harvest intervals and establishing a good competitive stand of forage.

