

AG NOTES
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FARMERS MARKET

We're not quite ready yet, which is not unusual. We're still checking and when we've got enough we'll put it here, on our Facebook page and the Farmers Market webpage. Keep checking while we keep checking.

WEED ID AND CONTROL

I had a picture of an interesting weed sent to me and I thought I knew what it was, but I couldn't get it to compare to my weed ID pictures exactly. So, I sent the image to the lab and got a good ID on it and that helped me in looking at the labels of the various control products on the market and found a good one.

I first thought this was a form of dogfennel, but that has yellow flowers and this one had white flowers with yellow centers. I've attached the photo. The lab identified it as mayweed chamomile. It does favor the fennel and bitter sneezeweed, but it's different. This one is a spring germinated weed and now is a good time to treat it. The new product Duracor is labeled for it, and that 's what I recommended.



ANOTHER WEED

I had another one sent to me, and though the focus was not the best, I kept looking and searching for this one. It actually is in the immature stage and you can control it with Duracor as well. It was the immature form of Queen Ann's lace, a member of the wild carrot family. This one is really common but the blooms are just now forming and it's not that easy to get it just yet. The leaves look like long slender arrows that are sort of curled. I couldn't get a good picture to share.

This one is a cousin of the poison hemlock that I've mentioned a week or two ago. And the blooms are similar in appearance, but they're different at the same time. The lace plant is fairly common and is not as much of a danger as the hemlock, except that they look similar and can cause mistakes in managing them.

MORE WEED CONTROL

If we had the weeds out of the pastures here, we could grow a lot more grass and hay and be more efficient. I'm paying a lot more attention to weeds and inquiries and I really think we can do better with not much effort. Our biggest problem with weeds is the wide variety of broadleaf weeds, but there are several products that we can use.

With moisture a problem in hot dry weather, fertilizer costs, and forage quality important to all livestock operations, we can be more efficient and have better grazing and hay if we can control the weeds in pastures and hayfields to keep them from competing with the good stuff. The key to doing this is to know what the weed is, when it is germinated, when the best time is to treat for it, and what the best product to use is.

For those weeds that are growing now, from the immature stage to the early bloom stage, this is a good time since these weeds germinated in the spring and early summer. Those weeds that bloomed back in February-April, those were germinated in the fall and it is too late to get an effective control on them, and they have already produced seeds for the new fall crop anyway.

There are some other differences that we need to pay attention to. Woody stem weeds will need a different type of controls, but there are some good ones available, and most of the them can be tank mixed with the controls for the softer plants for a broader treatment with one pass.

If you have weed problems, contact me at 684-5971, email me a jteague1@utk.edu, or drop a fresh specimen at the office at 2105 Midland Road. Let's figure out what it is, and then we'll figure out how to treat it.

For a livestock grower, there is nothing like seeing a good clean field with nothing but desirable grasses and legumes. And the animals grazing on 'em! It's like a work of art in nature.