

Auglaize County ANR

News from OSU Extension

May 13th, 2022



Yellow Everywhere!

As I drove the county this week, I noticed Yellow Flowers Everywhere! Upon further investigation I found two species of flowering weeds that we should discuss. The first being Cressleaf Groundsel, *Senecio glabellus*, The other is Yellow Rocket, *Barbarea vulgaris*. Both produce bright yellow flowers and are

common across fields in our area, however, both weeds are considered invasive weeds in Ohio and should be managed. Because both species are flowering that tells us that they have reached their reproductive stage and the end of their life cycle. The sheer size of the plant makes it more difficult to kill

with herbicide, therefore one should not skimp on the rate for burndown of these weeds. Complete control is important to cut down on seed control and will benefit in the future with fewer weeds to deal with. But which weed is in my field?

Cressleaf Groundsel

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Cressleaf Groundsel, also known as Butterweed is referred to as the yellow daisy because of their daisy like pattern. The flowers have a central composite of disc like flowers surrounded by up to 15 florets radiating like a star. It has a hollow stem that is deeply ridged and sometimes has a reddish-purple coloration. The seedheads look very similar to dandelion seed heads, but are a bit smaller.



*“One person’s weed is another person’s wildflower.”
-Susan Witting Albert*



The flowers resemble a yellow Daisy.

Although most producers would call this a weed, there is some debate about it being a wildflower! As a producer of hay crops and a livestock owner, it falls firmly in the weed category for me, however, “One Person’s weed is another person’s wildflower” -Susan Witting Albert. Butterweed has been cited as a native wildflower in Ohio and welcomes a nice reprieve from the continual dull colors of winter. I have

included [This](#) link to a few articles about Cressleaf Groundsel.

Although beautiful to see, This flower does pose a toxicity hazard to livestock. Listed as poisonous to cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and humans due to the presence of pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PA’s). Drying or ensiling does NOT reduce the toxicity. This link will give you an OSU article that discusses [Cressleaf Groundsel in Wheat and Hay](#).



Yellow Rocket

Yellow Rocket belongs to the mustard family and is a biennial, meaning that it grows for two seasons before it reaches reproduction stage. It is a non-native invasive species in Ohio. It is a prolific seed producer, which is a common trait in the mustard family. This plant does not show its true colors the first season, It begins as a tightly clustered rosette that grows tight to the ground and is often missed when scouting because it is under other foliage. The second

year the plant enters its reproductive stage and bolts upright with one or more flowering stalks. The stalks are hairless, stout, light green to reddish-purple. The flower has 4 yellow petals, with multiple flowers bunched along the top portion of the stalks. Yellow Rocket is also labeled as a wildflower, you can read more about it at [this](#) link.

ND What?

A quick overview on how to estimate your Neutral Detergent Fiber percentage in Alfalfa

What is NDF and why should I be familiar with it? Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF) is a measure of insoluble fiber in your alfalfa crop. The amount of NDF in your crop that is desirable is dependent on the animal that you will be feeding. Horses for example need a lower NDF where lactating dairy cows have been documented as having higher milk production with a higher NDF feed. Adequate NDF in Dairy cows promotes proper rumen function. NDF is only part of the equation for a balanced dry matter content for your livestock, but we will talk about that another time.

How do we get an accurate estimate on NDF for our alfalfa crop? Marc Sulc at the Ohio State University has a great guide on how to estimate NDF. Using this process, you can get a relatively close estimate to your actual NDF.

Step 1: Choose a representative 2-square-ft area in the field to be harvested.

Step 2: Determine the most mature stem in the 2-square-ft sampling area. Vegetative = no buds or flowers present; Bud=1 or more nodes with buds; flower=1 or more nodes

with open flowers.

Step 3: Measure the length of the tallest stem in the 2-square-ft area. Measure it from the soil surface (next to plant crown) to the tip of the stem (NOT to the tip of the highest leaf blade). Straighten the stem for an accurate measure of its length. The tallest stem may not be the most mature stem.

Step 4: Based on the most mature stem and length of the tallest stem, use the chart to determine estimated NDF of the standing alfalfa forage.

Example: tallest stem is 28 inches, most mature stem has buds, but no open flowers; NDF = 38.0.

Step 5: Repeat steps 1-4 in five representative areas across the field. Sample more in fields larger than 30 acres. Average all estimates for a field average.

NOTE: This estimates alfalfa NDF of the standing crop. It does not account for changes in quality from wilting, harvesting, and storage, which may further raise NDF by 3 to 6 units, assuming good wilting and harvesting conditions. This procedure is most accurate for good stands of pure alfalfa with healthy growth.

Length of tallest stem inches	Most mature stem present		
	Vegetative	Bud	Flower
	----- % NDF -----		
16	28.5	29.7	31.4
17	29.2	30.4	32.0
18	29.9	31.1	32.7
19	30.6	31.8	33.4
20	31.3	32.5	34.1
21	32.0	33.2	34.8
22	32.7	33.9	35.5
23	33.4	34.6	36.2
24	34.0	35.3	36.9
25	34.7	35.9	37.6
26	35.4	36.6	38.3
27	36.1	37.3	38.9
28	36.8	38.0	39.6
29	37.5	38.7	40.3
30	38.2	39.4	41.0
31	38.9	40.1	41.7
32	39.6	40.8	42.4
33	40.3	41.5	43.1
34	40.9	42.2	43.8
35	41.6	42.8	44.5
36	42.3	43.5	45.2
37	43.0	44.2	45.8
38	43.7	44.9	46.5
39	44.4	45.6	47.2
40	45.1	46.3	47.9

May Events



May 14th - Hardin County Master Gardener Volunteer Plant Sale, 10:00am until Noon at the friendship gardens, 960 Kohler Street, Kenton

May 9th-21st - Outdoor plant swap at the St. Mary's library Sponsored by the Heritage trails park district and St. Mary's public library.

May 17th - Auglaize County Ag. Brunch has been CANCELLED

May 25th - Mercer County Lawn and Garden Talks, 6:00pm, 220 W. Livingston Street Room B252 in Celina. The topic will be raised bed gardening.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

OSU Extension Auglaize County

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