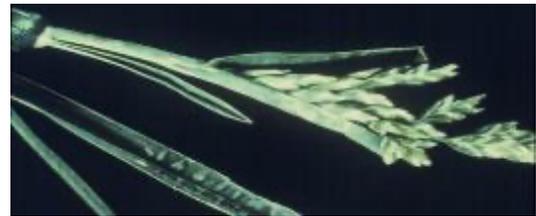


# GRASSY WEEDS

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>ANNUAL BLUEGRASS</b>
<b>LATIN NAME:</b>	<i>Poa annua</i>
<b>FAMILY:</b>	Poaceae
<b>OVERALL DESCRIPTION:</b>	
A winter or cool-season annual of the grass family; non-native to North America, originally from Europe but found world-wide. It grows in erect clumps and spreads by seed. It has a tufted habit with a light, bright, green leaf color and fine texture and characteristic whitish seedheads. Also commonly known as annual blue, walk grass, annual meadow grass and wintergrass.	
<b>LIFE CYCLE</b>	Winter annual
<b>SEASONS OF GROWTH</b>	Seeds germinate in the late summer/fall, produces flowers/ seeds in the spring and dies as the temperature rises in late spring/early summer
<b>LEAF SHEATHS</b>	Light green, hairless, open with a pronounced mid-vein. Mature leaf width is less than 5 mm.
<b>FLOWERS / SEEDHEAD</b>	White, open panicle inflorescences, pyramid-shaped
<b>LEAF BLADES</b>	Boat-shaped leaf tip and wavy margins near the base
<b>LEAF VERNATION</b>	Folded in the bud and appears V-shaped
<b>LIGULE</b>	Pointed and membranous
<b>AURICLE</b>	Not Present
<b>ROOTS</b>	Fibrous roots
<b>ANY OTHER DISTINGUISHING TRAITS</b>	The light, bright green color of the clumps of annual bluegrass can be distinguished as lighter areas when growing in turfgrass.



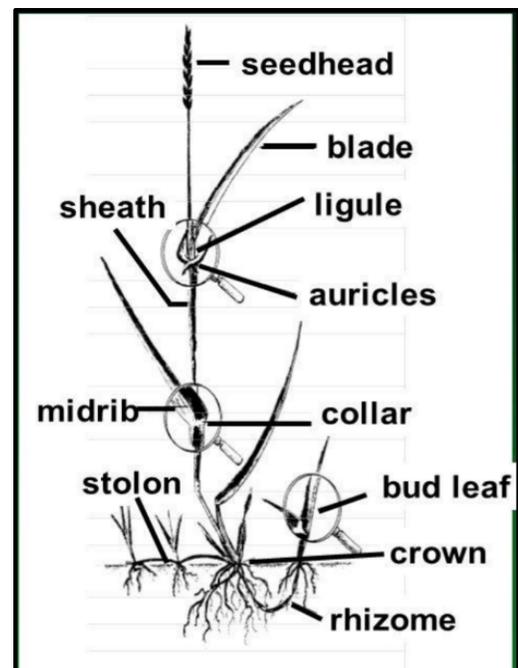
Virginia Tech



University of Maryland Extension



Virginia Tech



TYPICAL GRASSY WEED

<b>TYPE OF SOIL CONDITIONS OR PRACTICES FAVORING GROWTH</b>	This grass grows best in cool, moist conditions; compacted soil; in the sun and even in shady locations; and high levels of nitrogen. Avoid overwatering and applying too much nitrogen fertilizer to the turfgrass.
<b>KEY MESSAGE TO HOMEOWNER</b>	Once this weed is present, it is difficult to control. Best control is to maintain a healthy, dense turf to compete with and prevent this weed from getting a foothold using the cultural controls and chemical pre-emergent controls plus proper fertilization.
<b>CULTURAL CONTROL</b>	Hand-pull annual bluegrass in early infestation; aerate the turf to reduce compaction. Irrigate the turf properly; i.e., water deeply and infrequently, to encourage turf to have a deeper root system as opposed to the shallow root system of the annual bluegrass; mow the lawn to a proper (higher) height to discourage weed growth and bag the grass during seed production to avoid spread.
<b>BIOLOGICAL CONTROL</b>	None noted.
<b>CHEMICAL CONTROL</b>	Control with pre-emergent products containing active ingredients Pendimethalin, Prodiamine, Simazine or Trifluralin in early September before the seeds germinate (cannot overseed grass if treat with preemergent). (Table 5.5, pp 5-18 & 5-19, 2020 PMG) There are no selective herbicides to control post-emergent annual bluegrass. Non-selective herbicides can be used for spot treatments but care must be used to prevent damage to turf and other plants. (p 5-23, 2021, PMG). Consider that it is an annual plant and will die in the summer.
<b>SOURCES OF INFORMATION</b>	Annual bluegrass - a serious spring weed problem in Virginia's lawns, <a href="https://ext.vt.edu/lawn-garden/turfandgardentips/tips/poa-control.html">https://ext.vt.edu/lawn-garden/turfandgardentips/tips/poa-control.html</a>  VCE, Pest Management Guide (PMG) Home Grounds and Animals, 2021 <a href="https://fairfaxgardening.org/wp-content/webdocs/ref/2021PestManagementGuide.pdf">https://fairfaxgardening.org/wp-content/webdocs/ref/2021PestManagementGuide.pdf</a>  Virginia Tech, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, VCE Weed Identifier <a href="https://weedid.cals.vt.edu/profile/54">https://weedid.cals.vt.edu/profile/54</a>  Clemson Cooperative Extension, Home and Garden Information Center, Weed of the Month – Annual Bluegrass <a href="https://hgic.clemson.edu/weed-of-the-month-annual-bluegrass/">https://hgic.clemson.edu/weed-of-the-month-annual-bluegrass/</a>  University of Maryland Extension, <a href="https://extension.umd.edu/resource/annual-bluegrass">https://extension.umd.edu/resource/annual-bluegrass</a>  North Carolina Extension, North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox, <a href="https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/poa-annua/">https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/poa-annua/</a>
<b>FCMGA SPECIAL PROJECT RESEARCH BY</b>	Jayne Huleatt, FCMGA Master Gardener Intern