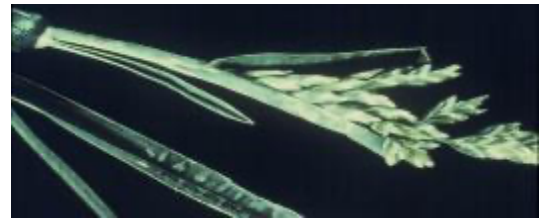


GRASSY WEEDS

TITLE:	ANNUAL BLUEGRASS
LATIN NAME:	<i>Poa annua</i>
FAMILY:	Poaceae
OVERALL DESCRIPTION:	
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.	
LIFE CYCLE	Winter annual
SEASONS OF GROWTH	Seeds germinate in the late summer/fall, produces flowers/ seeds in the spring and dies as the temperature rises in late spring/early summer
LEAF SHEATHS	Light green, hairless, open with a pronounced mid-vein. Mature leaf width is less than 5 mm.
FLOWERS / SEEDHEAD	White, open panicle inflorescences, pyramid-shaped
LEAF BLADES	Boat-shaped leaf tip and wavy margins near the base
LEAF VERNATION	Folded in the bud and appears V-shaped
LIGULE	Pointed and membranous
AURICLE	Not Present
ROOTS	Fibrous roots
ANY OTHER DISTINGUISHING TRAITS	The light, bright green color of the clumps of annual bluegrass can be distinguished as lighter areas when growing in turfgrass.



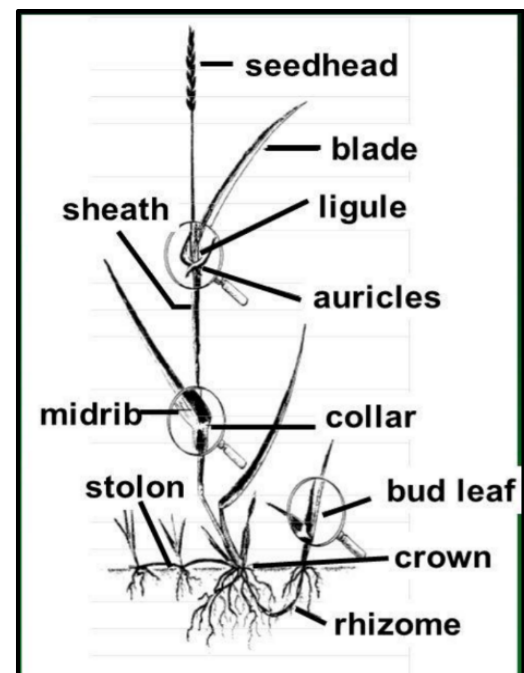
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TYPICAL GRASSY WEED

TYPE OF SOIL CONDITIONS OR PRACTICES FAVORING GROWTH	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.
KEY MESSAGE TO HOMEOWNER	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.
CULTURAL CONTROL	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.
BIOLOGICAL CONTROL	None noted.
CHEMICAL CONTROL	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.
<u>SOURCES OF INFORMATION</u>	Annual bluegrass - a serious spring weed problem in Virginia's lawns, https://ext.vt.edu/lawn-garden/turfandgardentips/tips/poa-control.html VCE, Pest Management Guide (PMG) Home Grounds and Animals, 2021 https://fairfaxgardening.org/wp-content/webdocs/ref/2021PestManagementGuide.pdf Virginia Tech, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, VCE Weed Identifier https://weedid.cals.vt.edu/profile/54 Clemson Cooperative Extension, Home and Garden Information Center, Weed of the Month – Annual Bluegrass https://hgic.clemson.edu/weed-of-the-month-annual-bluegrass/ University of Maryland Extension, https://extension.umd.edu/resource/annual-bluegrass North Carolina Extension, North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox, https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/poa-annua/
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