CSS 292
Turfgrass Weed Management

Weed Identification 2:
Grassy Weeds

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Recipe for Weed ID

- Family
- Scientific Name
- Common Name
- Key Characteristics
- Cultural Distribution
Parts of a Grass Plant

1. Parts of a grass plant (The Scotts Company)

- seedhead
- ligule
- sheath
- node
- spikelet
- auricles
- blade
- collar
- tiller
- stolon
- leafbud
- rhizome

- Ligules may be:
  - membranous
  - hairy
  - absent

- Auricles may be:
  - long, claw-like
  - short, stubby
  - absent

- Collars may be:
  - continuous
  - divided
  - broad or narrow

- Leafbuds may be:
  - rolled in the bud
  - folded in the bud
Grassy Weeds in Turf

- Tall Fescue
- Nimblewill
- Creeping Bent
- Quackgrass
- Bermudagrass
- Annual Bluegrass
- Giant Foxtail
- Large Crabgrass
- Smooth Crabgrass
- Yellow Foxtail
- Goosegrass
- Green Foxtail
- Yellow Nutsedge
Tall Fescue (P) *Festuca arundinacea*

* leaves rolled in the bud.
* ligule membranous, short.
* collar broad, continuous.
* auricles present.
* sheaths not compressed, reddish-pink below ground.
* blades flat, strongly veined above, rough along the edges, sharp pointed.
Nimblewill (P) Muhlenbergia schreberi

leaves rolled in the bud.
* ligule membranous, short, jagged.
* collar medium, smooth, long hairs at the edges.
  auricles absent.
* sheaths compressed, prominent white membrane along the edges.
* blades short, narrow, flat, pointed.
Bentgrass (P) *Agrostis palustris*

- Leaves rolled in the bud.
- * Ligule membranous, tall, rounded.
- Collar narrow.
- Auricles absent.
- Sheaths smooth, not compressed.
- * Blades narrow, flat, veined, rough along the edges.
**Quackgrass** *(P) Agropyron repens*

leaves rolled in the bud.
ligule membranous, very short.
collar broad, continuous.
* auricles claw-like, slender, clasping the stem.
sheaths not compressed, lower sheaths with short hairs, upper sheaths smooth.
* blades flat, 1/4 inch wide, rough on the upper surface, smooth below, pointed.
Bermudagrass (P) *Cynodon dactylon*

* leaves folded in the bud.
* ligule a fringe of hairs.
* collar narrow, covered with long hairs. auricles absent.
  sheaths strongly compressed, sparsely hairy.
* blades short, 1/8 inch wide, rough along the edges, sharp pointed.
Annual Bluegrass (A, B, P) *Poa annua*

leaves folded in the bud.

* ligule membranous, medium long, slightly pointed.
  * collar narrow, smooth.
  * auricles absent.
  * sheaths slightly compressed, smooth.

* blades short, lax, about 1/8 inch wide, the edges parallel to each other, terminating in a "boat-shaped" tip.
Large Crabgrass (A)

* Digitaria sanguinalis

leaves rolled in the bud.
* ligule membranous, tall, with jagged edges.
* collar broad, prominent, with long hairs at the edges. auricles absent.
* sheaths compressed, hairy.
* blades flat, sparsely hairy, 1/4 inch wide, sharp pointed.
Smooth Crabgrass (A)

* **Digitaria ischaemum**

- leaves rolled in the bud.
- * ligule membranous, tall, rounded.
- collar broad, sparsely hairy.
- auricles absent.
- * sheaths compressed, smooth, generally tinged with purple.
- * blades sparsely hairy near the ligule, 1/4 inch wide, sharp pointed.
Goosegrass (A) *Eleusine indica*

leaves folded in the bud.
* ligule membranous, toothed, divided at the center.
  collar broad and sparsely hairy at the edges.
  auricles absent.
* sheaths compressed, flattened, white near the base, sparsely hairy along the edges.
Giant Foxtail (A) *Setaria faberi*

leaves rolled in the bud.
ligule a fringe of hairs.
collar continuous
auricles absent.

* grows 3-7 feet tall and bends over unless supported by other plants
* blades flat, often spiraling upward, hairy on upper surface of entire leaf.
Yellow Foxtail (A) *Setaria lutescens*

- Leaves rolled in the bud.
- Ligule a fringe of hairs.
- Collar continuous, narrow.
- Auricles absent.
- Sheaths compressed, tinged with red near base, mid-vein prominent.
- Blades flat, often spiraling upward, hairy on upper surface near ligule.
Green Foxtail (A) *Setaria viridis*

- leaves rolled in the bud.
- ligule a fringe of hairs.
- collar narrow, hairy.
- auricles absent.
- sheaths slightly compressed, hairy along the edges.
- blades soft, flat, narrow at the base, slightly more than 1/4 inch wide, sharp pointed.
Yellow Nutsedge (P)

*Cyperus esculentum*

* leaves 3-ranked, narrow, grasslike, basal.
* stem erect, triangular, yellow-green.
**Orchardgrass (P)**

*Dactylis glomerata*

* clumping perennial
  very fibrous root system – no rhizomes
* blades are bluish green and strongly keeled
  large membranous ligule