

The "New" Poa annua

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Poa annua, the species...

- ◆ True annuals, winter annuals, biennials, and perennials all exist in this species
- ◆ Poa annua var. annua
 - ✓ continuous, heavy flowering/seed production
 - ✓ short life span
- ◆ Poa annua var. reptans
 - ✓ variety of flowering habits
 - ✓ longer life span

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Chemical Management of Poa annua

- ✓ Arsenates (1920s to early 1970s)
- ✓ Preemergent herbicides (1960s to present)
 - ✗ bensulide
 - ✗ dithiopyr
- ✓ Growth regulators
 - ✗ mefluidide (Embark; 80s-present)
 - ✗ gibberellic acid inhibitors (TGR, Primo; 1980s-present)
- ✓ Postemergent herbicides
 - ✗ linuron (1970s)
 - ✗ ethofumesate (Prograss; 1980s-present)

Poa annua, the history...

- ◆ Most early references label it as a "weed"
- ◆ A long history of chemical control measures
- ◆ The continuing search for biocontrols
- ◆ Recognition as a desirable turf species

Creeping bluegrass?

- ◆ Dr. Don White, U. Minnesota
- ◆ 3 selections of Poa annua var. reptans
 - ✗ MN #42
 - ✗ MN #184
 - ✗ MN #208
- ◆ Peterson Seed Co. of Savage, MN

Other Poa research?

- ◆ Dr. David Huff, Pennsylvania State University
- ◆ New Poa breeding program
- ◆ Selecting for turf quality, disease resistance, and cold hardiness
- ◆ Will be funded by USGA Green Section Research Program beginning in 1998

The Big Questions...

- ◆ Seed production, availability, and cost?
- ◆ Better pest and stress resistance?
- ◆ How should they be managed?
- ◆ Will "wild" Poas invade cultivated Poa?
- ◆ Acceptance?