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The Cover

You may need to get down on your knees to discover this pesky annual dicot weed that reproduces profusely by seed. Perhaps Dick Bangs at O. M. Scott & Sons, Marysville, Ohio, did to take this picture. It is knotweed and it grows in compacted soils, such as athletic fields and playfields, throughout the northern U.S. and to a lesser extent in southern states. It germinates early, often in March, and resembles new seedling grass for a while. Upon maturing, it becomes a prostrate-growing weed and grows in all directions from a small taproot. Forming a dense mat, it smothers out desirable turfgrasses. “The Grass People” say herbicide formulations of dicamba will now control this serious weed pest, at rates of only 1/4 lb/acre of active ingredient.