WEEDWATCH
STANDING SENTINEL TO PROTECT PLANT HEALTH

For more information regarding these and other turf weeds — and related control technologies and tips — please visit www.DowProvesIt.com or call 800/255-3726.

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PURPLE CUDWEED
Gnaphalium purpureum

IDENTIFICATION TIPS
› Purple cudweed is a low-growing winter or summer annual—or sometimes biennial, as some plants will survive into the second year to achieve maturity.
› It overwinters as a basal rosette, but it usually grows from an upright stem in the spring.
› Seed leaves and first true leaves have white to light gray woolly hairs.
› Mature plants are sparsely branched and grow 8 in. to 20 in. tall.
› Flower heads are crowded, spiked and densely arranged on the stems or at the base of leaf stalks.

CONTROL TIPS
› Cudweed is a relatively easy weed to control. First, maintain a dense, actively growing turf through proper mowing, fertilization and irrigation.
› It’s best to control purple cudweed in the spring or fall when actively growing. Two-, three- and four-way herbicides containing clopyralid provide good postemergent control. Apply to the plant before seed stalk formation.

CATCHWEED
Galium aparine

IDENTIFICATION TIPS
› Also known as rough bedstraw, this annual is commonly found in moist, shady areas.
› Seed leaves are oblong to egg-shaped with slightly notched tips. Mature leaves are whorled with six to eight leaves per whorl. Small, downward-curved prickles cover the stems and leaves.
› Small, four-parted white or greenish-white flowers grow on short branches originating in the leaf axils on the upper parts of the plant.

CONTROL TIPS
› Long-term cultural control requires removing existing plants before they flower and produce viable seed. Hand-weeding, followed by a layer of mulch, works well in landscape settings.
› To control in turfgrass or bare-ground areas, apply a postemergent herbicide containing florasulam when catchweed is actively growing. Florasulam can be applied at the same time the first fertilizer and liquid preemergent applications of the season are made.

Recommended Dow AgroSciences solution
Lontrel® specialty herbicide*

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Defendor® specialty herbicide*

PHOTOS: S. ASKEW (LEFT); ROB ROUTLEDGE, SAULT COLLEGE, BUGWOOD.ORG

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