INTRODUCTION

Successful weed identification is a combination of timing and user-friendly data. Timing in relation to the maturity of the plant (the older, the easier) and user-friendly data, meaning an identification guide that is designed to facilitate the identification process. Both were considered in the design of this guide.

Timing: When identifying either monocot (grassy) weeds or dicot (broadleaf) weeds, studying a mature or flowering sample is very important. All of the most easily identifiable traits—flowers, seeds, leaves and roots—are present then, so take some time to find a mature specimen to examine.

User-friendly data: For ease of use, this guide concentrates on those plant characteristics that differentiate one species from another rather than those traits each has in common. These differences are represented visually with added text to refine the distinctions between similar plants.

Understanding the terms used in this guide

Understanding the parts of a grass plant are essential to accurately identify monocot weeds. In the example shown, pay particular attention to the seedhead, the ligule and the collar. They are the plant parts which have the most differentiating traits.

Abbreviations

aka = "also known as" (different common names are popular in different parts of the U.S.)

Further help

The use of this guide was designed to help managers substantially reduce the number of possible weed species identifications. However, variations in a plant's vegetative characteristics or distribution may require that managers forward samples to their local extension service for confirmation. BASF's local technical representatives can also be contacted for further help at 800/545-9525 or on the Web at www.turffacts.com.

Sources

Information was compiled from the Scotts "Guide to the Identification of Grasses," the Southern Weed Science Society's "Weed Identification Guide," A.S. Hitchcock's "Manual of the Grasses of the United States" and the extension department at Cornell University.

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A GRASSY WEED