

Summer conditions always bring out the best and worst in *Poa annua*. One of the most widely distributed plants in the world, *Poa annua* is well adapted to golf course conditions. The ability to tolerate low mowing heights and an upright growth habit results in a turf that provides an ideal surface for greens, tees and fairways. Conversely, *Poa annua* is associated with spring seedhead production and a shallow root system that predisposes the plant to summer stresses.

Whether you are managing it as a desirable turfgrass species or as a weed that needs to be eliminated, *Poa annua* always strikes an emotional chord with superintendents. Given our emotional attachment, which ranges from utter contempt to love, there is never a shortage of one-liners to describe our emotions towards it (even Johnny Miller chimed in recently, with a line about *Poa annua* not having a father to call on Father's Day.)

I have dusted off my book of favorite *Poa annua* quotes with the hope of using some of them during the upcoming summer stress season. You may not like them, but hopefully you can relate to one or two listed below.

1 "If every chemical that was labeled to control *Poa annua* worked, *Poa annua* would be an endangered species."

2 Observing a dead creeping bentgrass green, the club manager asked, "Do you think it will come back?" The superintendent responded, "I have only known three people to come back from the dead: Jesus, Lazarus and *Poa annua*."

3 When one superintendent was fired for not being able to control *Poa annua*, he said, "If *Poa annua* were human it would be on Death Row."

4 When a golfer observed that *Poa annua* was not natural on a golf course, the superintendent replied, "There is nothing natural about mowing at 3 mm."

Poa Punchlines

BY KARL DANNEBERGER



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5 "When creeping bentgrass dies what fills in? *Poa annua*. When Kentucky bluegrass dies what fills in? *Poa annua*. When *Poa annua* dies, what fills in? *Poa annua*." — Dr. Joseph Vargas Jr.

6 The club manager said, "It takes a lot of time, money and chemicals to maintain *Poa annua*." The superintendent replied, "It takes a lot of time, money, and chemicals to kill *Poa annua*."

7 When a superintendent was told he should cut down on irrigation to eliminate *Poa annua*, he replied, "It has been found on all seven continents, including in the Arctic. I don't think eliminating a couple of showers is going to do much good."

8 "That is *Poa annua*, a sort of outcast bluegrass. It drops its seed plentifully and spreads rapidly. Maybe it would be well to try a test bed of it and give the poor old bum a real chance. He may prove a gentleman after all." — A. W. Tillinghast, written over 80 years ago

I sometimes wonder what would be said if *Poa annua* were a woman — and not on Death Row! I can only imagine the pick-up lines she would hear in a bar.

I am sure there are many other of these jokes that are funnier or more insightful than these. If you have a favorite one-liner about *Poa annua* please e-mail it to me.

Disclaimer: Due to my age, I can't remember if some of these are originally mine or if I heard them from someone else.

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