



*Poa annua* has become more difficult to control as populations have become resistant to several herbicide classes.

## RESEARCH AIMS TO IMPROVE **POA ANNUA** CONTROL

BY ADDISON BARDEN | AGRONOMIST, SOUTHEAST REGION

Regardless of the turf species grown in the Southeast, golf course superintendents are facing an uphill battle with one of the toughest pests in the region: *Poa annua*. Luckily, a national team of 16 scientists from 15 universities has been assembled to study this problematic weed. Dr. Muthu Bagavathiannan, from Texas A&M AgriLife Research, is leading the \$5.7 million dollar federally funded project.

The project will examine all aspects of *Poa annua* physiology, distribution and growth characteristics. From a management perspective, distribution of herbicide-resistant populations and alternative herbicides will be studied. Bringing plant biology and control methods together, each member of the research team will be collecting *Poa annua* samples with suspected herbicide resistance while also providing extension and educational support.



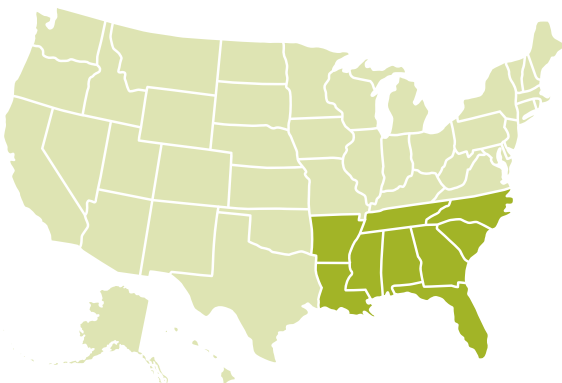
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If you suspect you have herbicide-resistant *Poa annua* populations, or would like to learn more about the project, please contact the research team member representing your home state.

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