

GOOSEGRASS

(*Elusine indica*)



Goosegrass, sometimes called Wiregrass and Yardgrass, is an annual grass found in urban areas, lawns, yards, roadsides, and waste places. Widespread throughout eastern United States, goosegrass was introduced from the warmer parts of Asia. It is somewhat similar in appearance to crabgrass, but differs in that the digital spikes which bear the seeds are much broader than crabgrass spikes, and goosegrass does not root from joints on the prostrate stems as crabgrass does. Though described as pale green, goosegrass is a darker green than crabgrass. Goosegrass is particularly bothersome during the months from June to September.

Stems are flattened, smooth, and cover the ground in prostrate mats in tufts from fibrous roots. The stems may be from 6 inches to 2 feet long. Leaves are smooth, pale green with loose, flattened, and overlapping sheaths. Two to 10 spikes radiate from near the top of the stem. Spikes are $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide, 1 to 3 inches long; each has a row of spikelets attached on one side extending to the tip of the rachis (long axis).

Each of the 5 mm. long spikelets holds 3 to 5 tiny flowers, which produce seeds. Seeds are about 1.5 mm. long, reddish-brown, and cross-ridged.

Pre-emergent control is effected with calcium arsenate applied before seeds germinate in April or May. Additional treatments using disodium methyl arsonate (DMA) may be necessary if a few weeds get through. This should be applied when the weed is tender and actively growing.

Prepared in cooperation with Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland.

DRAWING BY REGINA HUGHES, USDA, BELTSVILLE

Florida Spraymen's Convention Set for Miami Beach Nov. 8-10

Almost every branch of a contract applicator's business will be analyzed at the third annual convention of the Horticultural Spraymen's Association of Florida, Nov. 8-10, Deauville Hotel, Miami Beach.

Nearly 300 delegates are expected at the annual affair, association publicity director Thomas Hamall told *Weeds and Turf* at presstime.

An added feature at this year's meeting is the invitation to out-of-state spraymen who may wish to attend the Florida meeting. Hamall said all contract applicators may attend.

No three-day convention ever featured more fact-filled sessions, or a more delightful social program.

After HSAF president Larry Nipp officially opens the convention Thursday morning, an all-day series of talks and discussions will be offered.

Highlights of Thursday's program include an address by Dr. Stratton H. Kerr, entomologist from the University of Florida.

Basic lectures on the biology and control of insects, nematodes, and plant diseases, followed by a "question and answer period with the old pros," will round out Thursday's slate.

Thursday night, in the Deauville's pool area, delegates and their families will gather for a Hawaiian Luau.

Friday morning spotlights safety, with a talk by William J. Wiswesser, from the Industrial Hygiene Dept., Willson Products Co., Reading, Pa. Willson manufactures safety equipment.

"Equations for Small Business," a talk designed to help smaller companies operate more efficiently, will be offered by Dr. Grover A. J. Noetzel, Department of Economics, University of Florida, Gainesville.

Business meetings, visits to supplier's exhibits, a cocktail party, and a banquet are scheduled for Saturday.

CAs who would like to attend the HSAF annual convention should write Thomas Hamall, Publicity Director, 3291 N. W. 103rd. St., Miami Beach, Fla.