

SMOOTH CRABGRASS

(*Digitaria ischaemum*)



Smooth crabgrass, sometimes referred to as summer grass, or finger grass, is a troublesome annual that reproduces by seed and by rooting at the nodes (joints) near the base of stems. It is generally found in lawns, uncultivated areas, and crops, on light sandy soil across Eastern North America, but it is locally common elsewhere. The smooth type is sometimes confused with large crabgrass (*D. sanguinalis*), which is taller, coarser, with hairy leaves, and is less purplish.

Stems of *D. ischaemum* are smooth and many branched, forming prostrate mats. Leaves are alternate (not directly opposed on the stem), and smooth, 2 to 12 cm. long, 3 to 6 mm. wide. Seeds are borne in two rows on one side of 3 to 10 branches that appear to radiate from the top of the upright stem. The spikelets or single flowers are about 2 mm. long. Chafflike bracts (sterile parts) which enclose the spikelets are dark brown with transparent margins.

Crabgrass begins growth only when the soil is quite warm, usually in May in northern areas, and in April southward. It flowers and sheds seed in August and September. Crabgrass grows so vigorously during the hot summer when turf grasses are under partial dormancy, that the weed tends to crowd or shade out desirable grasses.

Disodium monomethyl arsonate (DMA) when applied 3 to 7 lbs. of active ingredient per acre at weekly intervals for 2 to 3 weeks gives good control. Likewise, phenyl mercuric acetate (PMA) applied as a post-emergent spray at a rate of 1/2 to 1 1/2 lbs. per acre controls crabgrass infestations.

If a heavy infestation is expected in the spring, Zytron, Dacthal, or trifluralin, applied according to directions before the crabgrass germinates, are said to effect control throughout the summer.

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

DRAWING BY REGINA HUGHES, USDA, BELTSVILLE

Ill. Survey Supports Diquat For Aquatic Weed Control

Investigational reports from widely separated parts of the United States have indicated that Diquat is an effective herbicide for the control of aquatic weeds, according to a report from the Illinois Natural History Survey. Conclusions reached are that Diquat is quite toxic to tested aquatic weed species, and has a rapid action. In laboratory tests with bluegills, no fish deaths occurred at rates of 20 ppm. or below, the survey claims.

Diquat, marketed commercially by Ortho Division of California Chemical Co., is an aqueous solution containing 2.8 lbs. of Diquat dichloride. It has been approved for aquatic weed control by the Pesticide Labeling Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

CAs may receive a copy of the Illinois report, plus a copy of the test graph, by writing to the Illinois Natural History Survey, Section of Aquatic Biology, Urbana, Ill., and asking for "The Chemical Control of Some Aquatic Weeds — Supplement No. 2."

Magnolia Debuts New Pesticides

Magnolia Chemical Co., producers of nursery and garden center pesticides, is currently introducing four new formulations, including Bug Bait, Rose and Flower Dust, Lawn Spray, and Leaf Gloss.

Rose and Flower Dust, containing Dithane Z-78, is particularly effective against black spot, the firm claims. It is recommended for use as either a dust or as a water-diluted spray.

Interested CAs can write to the company at P.O. Box 8043, Dallas, Tex., for descriptive literature.

New Label Clearance for Simazine

Additional registrations for Simazine 80-W, which now extends use of the chemical to include nurseries, Christmas tree plantings, and shelter belts, has been revealed by Geigy Agricultural Chemicals Division, which manufactures the chemical.

Copies of the label acceptance are available to operators who write the firm at P. O. Box 430, Yonkers, N.Y.