

## PURSLANE

(*Portulaca oleracea*)



Common purslane (1), sometimes called wild portulaca or pusley, is a succulent fleshy annual reproducing by seed (4) and stem fragments. It is common throughout the United States and Canada, found on rich soils in gardens, cultivated soils, waste places, and newly seeded lawns or bare areas in established turf.

Upon germination, when soils first warm in spring, purslane develops prostrate mats of growth from a central stem. Stems are thick, smooth, and watery with a reddish tinge somewhat like that of rhubarb. Stem tips may turn upward at the ends. Uncontrolled, matted growth of purslane may reach 1 foot or more diameter, provided there is no competition from grasses or other plants.

Fleshy leaves with smooth edges develop in clusters near ends of stems. Small yellow flowers (2) with five petals are found in the axils of leaves (where leaf joins stem), so they, too, are somewhat clustered. In their northern ranges, they bloom from early July to first frost, when they die.

Each of the mature seed pods (3) opens by a "dunce-cap" lid. Seeds are tiny, 0.7 mm. in diameter, and are glossy black, somewhat flattened, and not quite circular. When a seed pod is emptied into one's hand, seeds resemble very small buckshot.

Because plants are fleshy and succulent, mechanical removal is next to impossible. If plants are pulled from the soil, they may root again if left lying on the ground. If a plant in bloom is pulled up, it may continue to develop and set seed before it is completely desiccated.

Purslane resists drying during hot summer months and continues to grow when grasses have gone into a midsummer dormant state.

When preparing a seedbed where purslane seeds are known to occur, seeding in the fall will give grasses a better chance to resist purslane invasion the following spring.

Susceptibility to 2,4-D is classed by most workers as intermediate; the younger the weed, the better 2,4-D's effect. Purslane is easily controlled by 2,4,5-T and silvex. For preemergence control, Dacthal and Zytron are effective. Purslane offers no problem for such soil-applied herbicides as CIPC, endothal, mylone, sesone, simazine, and others.

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

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## Plans Nearly Complete for 35th Int'l Turf-Grass Show

Officials in charge of the 35th International Turf-Grass Conference and Show, slated for Philadelphia's Sheraton Hotel Feb. 9-14, say arrangements are rapidly being completed for the annual affair, described as "the greatest show on turf."

Sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents of America, the conference features educational lectures and discussions of interest to personnel from all phases of the professional turf management industry.

A highlight each year is the trade exhibit, which attracts elaborate displays from the major suppliers of chemicals and equipment for turf maintenance. Since Philadelphia is situated in the heart of the country's most populated areas, the 1964 exhibition is expected to be larger than ever, GCSAA spokesmen told *Weeds and Turf*.

During the educational portion of the convention, experts from several areas of turf technology will give delegates detailed advice. Subjects for study include aquatic weed control, winter damage problems, fertilizer behavior, and an illustrated address which will outline the history of turf maintenance in the U.S.

Turf managers outside the golf course industry may attend by paying the customary registration fee, according to Dr. Gene C. Nutter, GCSAA Executive Director. More information will be sent any interested applicators who write Dr. Nutter at P.O. Box 1385, Jacksonville Beach, Fla.

## Dow Has Ornamental Carbamate

Formulations of a new organic carbamate insecticide, Zectran, especially adapted for use on ornamental plants, are being introduced by The Dow Chemical Co.

New formulations, trademarked Zectran 2E and Zectran 25W, are compatible with most commonly used insecticides and fungicides, Dow researchers report.

For more information on the new carbamate, write Agricultural Chemicals Div., The Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Mich.