

pointed out. "Drier soil conditions favor ryegrass establishment, which in turn suppresses development of bluegrass and red fescue seedlings."

"Under these conditions, the resultant composition of the turf is 80% to 95% ryegrass where only 20% to 33% rye was seeded three years ago. During winter, ryegrass will be seriously thinned by winterkill, resulting in a low-quality turf," Beard concluded.

## "National Policy" Theme Of February WSA Meet

"The National Policy on Weed Control" will be the theme when weed specialists from all over the country gather at Washington, D.C.'s Statler-Hilton Hotel for the 1967 annual meeting of the Weed Society of America, Feb. 14-17.

Registration will open at noon, Monday, Feb. 13, and general session and sectional meetings are slated to begin Feb. 14. Program for the '67 meet will also include a tour of the U. S. Department of Agriculture research facilities at Beltsville, Md., on Tuesday afternoon. While weed experts are discussing latest contributions to the field of weed science, a ladies program will tour places of interest in Washington.

Dr. William R. Furtick, Farm Crops Department, Oregon State University, Corvallis, is president of the society. President-elect and program chairman for the Washington conference is Richard Behrens, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Other officers are Dayton L. Klingman, Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville, Md., secretary; F. W. Slife, Department of Agronomy, University of Illinois, Urbana, treasurer and business manager; and E. G. Rodgers, Department of Agronomy, University of Florida, Gainesville, editor of "Weeds," the society's publication.

Further program details will be announced in coming issues of *Weeds Trees and Turf*.

## Know Your Species

### KOCHIA (*Kochia scoparia*)



Kochia, a native of Eurasia, was originally introduced as an ornamental and is still cultivated as such under the name of summer cypress. The young plant is a dark green, turning reddish as it matures, so that it is also known as fireweed, burning bush, and Mexican fireball.

Kochia is found throughout North America having spread very rapidly in recent years. This drought-resistant, bushy plant is most common in the Plains States. Kochia grows under most soil and moisture conditions, thrives in dry, alkaline soil, and is often found in pastures, croplands, rangelands, and fields.

In the fall, the kochia plant separates from its taproot and tumbles over the ground, distributing seeds widely. Seed are a common crop-seed contaminant.

An annual plant, reproducing by seed, kochia grows from a few inches to over 6 feet tall. Smooth, green stems branch considerably (1). Numerous alternate leaves are 1 to 2 inches long and are attached directly to stems. Leaves are narrow, hairy, and pointed.

Flowers (2) are small and green, without petals. Flowers and seeds grow in axils of the upper leaves and in terminal spikes. Seeds (3) are oval, flattened, and grooved on each side. Dull-surfaced seeds are brown with yellow markings. One plant will produce over 14,000 seeds, each about 1/16 inch long.

Mowing greatly reduces the amount of kochia seed formed; however, even continuous close mowing may not prevent seed formation. Mowing should be done early before seeds mature. Young plants (under 10 inches) can be well controlled by applying 1/2 to 3/4 pound of 2,4-D per acre. Older plants require more herbicide. Fully mature, woody plants are more difficult to control. Good results in controlling young kochia may also be obtained by using 2,4,5-T or silvex at a 1-pound-per-acre rate, or 2,4-DB at a rate of 2 pounds per acre.

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