

## We've got the *Poa annua* blues

What can we do to manage *Poa annua* (annual bluegrass)?

—OHIO

Annual bluegrass thrives in shaded, compacted, and poorly drained areas. Improve growing conditions to promote the desirable turfgrass growth. Proper fertilizing, watering, mowing and aerating will benefit desirable turfgrass and make it better able to compete with opportune weed plant infestation.

In areas where the *Poa annua* problem is severe, consider treating with non-selective herbicides such as Roundup or Finale, and reseed.

There are some other chemical strategies that may be more suitable for particular sites. For instance, consider using growth regulators such as Primo from Novartis, TGR from Scotts, or Cutless from Dow Agro-Sciences. These growth regulators help suppress annual bluegrass by allowing desirable turfgrass to compete for light, space, nutrients. Reports also indicate that Primo is a foliar absorbed product and improves turfgrass color and quality.

Another option is to use a herbicide like Prograss from AgrEvo which is capable of eliminating annual bluegrass from turfgrass areas. Prograss is intended for use on ornamental turf sites such as golf courses, parks and lawns. It shouldn't be mixed with liquid fertilizers or other pesticides. Don't apply Prograss within eight weeks fol-

lowing the application of a plant growth regulator. The spray mixture should not stand in tank over night, the label states. As always, read and follow label directions.

Fungicides such as Rubigan from Dow AgroSciences can also indirectly help manage the problem. Rubigan will suppress the seed head formation of annual bluegrass, reducing the infestation in the future years.

Reports also indicate that the Chipco Ronstar brand of oxadiazon herbicide from Rhone-Poulenc, can also effectively help manage *Poa annua*. Ronstar is a preemergent herbicide which can help manage problem grassy weeds such as crabgrass or goosegrass, as well as annual bluegrass weeds. Reportedly, one application in the late summer or early fall will help manage annual bluegrass for the season without the need for repeated applications or the risk of phytotoxicity.

## Herbicides in packets are handy

*I have been using the non-selective herbicide Roundup in the powder packet for many years. It's easy to mix in a hand-held sprayer. Is there a product for selective weed control that comes in a packet like Roundup?*

—MICHIGAN

I am familiar with a product called Dissolve from Riverdale Co. that comes in packets and is for selective weed control. However, they are not small packets.

Dissolve herbicide comes in either 25 lb. (10 x 2½-lb. packets) or 5 lb. (8 x 10-ounce packets). These packets are designed to be mixed with several gallons of water for treating large areas. This water-soluble product is a three-way postemergent selective herbicide containing the amines of 2, 4-D, Mecoprop and Dichloroprop for use on golf courses, parks, highway, sod farms, ornamental turf lawns and similar non-crop areas. It controls a number of common weeds including some that are considered difficult to manage.

According to the label, a 2½-lb. packet will treat from 43,000 to 58,000 sq. ft. (1 to 1½ acres) of cool season turfgrasses. For warm season turfgrasses, it can be used over 1½ to 2 acres.

For best results, target the applications when weeds are growing. Spring and fall are generally the best times to treat.

The label suggests that exposure to moisture before mixing may cause water-soluble bags to rupture. Take all the precautions and follow mixing guidelines as specified in the label.

*For more about weed control, see our weed control guides which begin on page 42. —ed.*



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