



# Annual Bluegrass

O & T Guide W-1

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Annual bluegrass, *Poa annua*, is a nonnative annual grass that is mostly erect but sometimes has a spreading growth pattern. This grass has crinkled leaves with unevenly curved tips, and produces seeds on openly branched stems. Annual bluegrass makes good turf under certain management conditions, but will otherwise displace desirable turf. It is also known as annual meadowgrass, annual or dwarf spear-grass, walkgrass, and wintergrass.



The stems are usually erect, although some varieties can produce roots at the stem nodes causing the plants to have a spreading growth pattern. The stems grow to 8 in. tall and are normally light green and hairless. The leaves grow 0.5-4.0 in. long by 0.04-0.10 in. wide and may be flat or folded. They are often keel shaped, have unevenly curved tips, and rough edges. The base of each leaf forms a sheath that extends down the stem. The sheaths are open for about half their length, are slightly flattened, with a raised midvein, and overlapping edges.



Seeds are borne on numerous slender branches found at the stem ends. The stems are openly branched and grow 0.5-4.0 in. long. The seeds are 0.1-0.3 in. long and may be green, purple, or straw-colored. The plant has a fibrous root system, and creeping varieties can produce roots at the stem nodes. It reproduces through seed only.

Management:

- Physically remove single plants or small infestations before seed production
- Cleaning equipment used in an infested area can prevent spread of seed to uninfested areas
- Herbicides are effective