

Bluegrass, Rough

[*Poa trivialis* L.]

DESCRIPTION

Rough (also called roughstalk) bluegrass has a relatively limited adaptation as a turf species because of intolerance to heat, drought, and traffic. It is also very patchy in appearance and therefore does not perform well in mixtures. However, rough bluegrass is sometimes used alone or in combination with perennial ryegrass for winter overseeding of golf course putting greens. Rough bluegrass can often be confused with Kentucky bluegrass. One way to distinguish them is to examine the root structures: rough bluegrass has stolons (above ground) and Kentucky bluegrass has rhizomes (below ground). Another way to distinguish between them is that rough bluegrass has a long, pointed membranous ligule and Kentucky bluegrass has a short, even membranous ligule.



Characteristic	Description
Seedhead / Flower	seedhead is a panicle with flattened spikelets with 2-3 seeds each
Vernation Type	leaves folded in the bud
Ligule Type	membranous; sharp pointed, entire, may be hairs along the edge, 0.16 - 0.24 inches (4 - 6 mm) long
Growth Season / Life Cycle	cool season turf or perennial weed
Auricle Type	absent
Leaf Blade Tip Shape	boat shaped; flat, sharply creased, glossy, edges rough at least near tip; two distinct, clear lines, one on each side of the midrib
Leaf Blade Width	0.04 - 0.16 inches (1 - 4 mm) wide
Stolon Presence	present
Rhizome Presence	absent
Collar Type	divided by midrib, distinct
Sheath Margin	open part way only
Sheath Type	flattened; sheath is usually rough; sharply creased



rough bluegrass ligule



rough bluegrass

Note: Still not sure this is the right weed? [The Turf & Weed Identification Decision Aid](#) may help. Check the TurfFiles [glossary](#) for definitions of unfamiliar terms.

CULTURAL CONTROL

Most turfgrasses are difficult to control within another turfgrass. Therefore, turf managers should select clean seed or vegetative sources for establishment, use an adapted turfgrass species and cultivar for their location, and use proper mowing and fertilization techniques to maintain a dense, actively growing, desired turf. Digging or removal with hand or mechanical equipment, for example a sod cutter, is one way to control undesired perennial turfgrasses. You may spot treat an infested area with an appropriate non-selective herbicide, realizing it will also kill the desired turfgrass.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Rough bluegrass can be controlled postemergence with sulfonylurea herbicides (e.g., TranXit GTA, Certainty) in tolerant turfgrass species.

Note: Recommendations of specific chemicals are based upon information on the manufacturer's label and performance in a limited number of trials. Because environmental conditions and methods of application may vary widely, performance of the chemical will not always conform to the safety and pest control standards indicated by experimental data. The order in which brand names are given is not an indication of a recommendation or criticism.

Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services does not imply endorsement by North Carolina State University or discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Other brand names may be labeled for use on turfgrasses. Individuals who use agricultural chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact your county's Cooperative Extension agent.

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