

# Broomsedge

[*Andropogon virginicus* L.]

## DESCRIPTION

Broomsedge is a perennial weed frequently found in fields, along roadsides, and in openings to forests and pastures. It can be distinguished from other grasses by the flattened leaf sheaths which have obvious leaf hairs. Leaves with folded vernation arise from a basal crown. Immature plants are bluish-green, however mature leaves turn light brown and appear to be dry. These upright leaves remain standing throughout the year.



Characteristic	Description
Seedhead / Flower	spikelets are in racemes of groups of 2-4
Vernation Type	leaves folded in the bud
Ligule Type	membranous; sharp pointed to collar-like, hairs along edge, no hairs on back of ligule
Growth Season / Life Cycle	perennial weed
Auricle Type	absent
Leaf Blade Tip Shape	sharp-pointed; flat, hairy near base above, smooth to rough below, edges rough and with hairs
Leaf Blade Width	0.1 - 0.28 inches (3 - 7 mm) wide
Stolon Presence	absent
Rhizome Presence	absent
Collar Type	divided; mostly hairy on edges
Sheath Margin	split with overlapping margins; sheath has long hairs on edges
Sheath Type	very flattened, sharply creased



broomsedge ligule



broomsedge leafhair

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

Perennial grass weeds are not desirable as turfgrass species under any conditions. Therefore, every effort should be made to prevent these weedy grasses from becoming established in turf, as selective control measures are usually difficult. Selection of adapted turfgrass species and cultivars and the use of cultural practices are important in minimizing weedy grass encroachment and competition. Management practices include (1) mowing at the recommended height for the selected turfgrass and removing clippings when seedheads of grassy weeds are present; (2) applying the proper amount of nitrogen at the correct time according to the turfgrass present; and (3) using soil tests to determine needed nutrients and lime.

## CHEMICAL CONTROL

Broomsedge control is achieved with repeat applications of MSMA in tolerant turf. However, MSMA will be phased out in 2009.

**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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