

Burrweed, Lawn (Spurweed)

[*Soliva sessilis* Ruiz & Pavón]

DESCRIPTION

Lawn burrweed, also known as spurweed, is a very low-growing winter annual weed that closely resembles parsley-piert and knawel. It is freely branched and usually does not root at the nodes. The leaves are oppositely arranged and highly divided into little leaf segments. Flowers are small (1/4 inch or less), broad, and inconspicuous. The seeds have sharp spines, hence the common name.

Lawn burrweed is commonly found in turfgrass systems. Infestations are increasing in North Carolina, particularly in the southern Coastal Plain and Piedmont.



Characteristic	Description
Growth Season	winter annual weed
Growth Habit	prostrate, spreading
Leaflet Number	one
Leaf Margin	three-lobed with each lobe again divided into lobes
Leaf Hairs	upper/lower surface; sparsely hairy
Leaf/Leaflet Shape	heart/kidney/spade
Leaf Width	<1/2 inch
Leaf Venation	palmate
Leaf Arrangement	opposite
Root Type	fibrous
Flower Color	inconspicuous



lawn burrweed



lawn burrweed

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

Winter annual broadleaf weeds germinate in the fall or winter and grow during any warm weather, which may occur in the winter, but otherwise remain somewhat dormant during the winter. They resume growth and produce seed in the spring and die as temperatures increase in late spring and early summer. They quickly invade thin turf areas especially where there is good soil moisture. Shade may also encourage growth. Many have a prostrate growth habit and are not affected by mowing. A dense, vigorous turf is the best way to reduce the encroachment of winter annual weeds. First, select adapted turfgrass cultivars for your area and then properly fertilize, mow, and water to encourage dense growth.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Lawn burrweed is controlled postemergence in tolerant warm season turf with sulfonylurea and triazine herbicides in fall or spring. Atrazine provides good control if applied in the fall, but does less well if applied during the winter (December - March). Two, three, and four way broadleaf herbicides also provide postemergence control.

Preemergence herbicides:

Herbicide	Tolerant Turfs ⁽¹⁾	Average Efficacy Rating ⁽²⁾	Range of Trial Efficacy Values, %	Number of Trials	Products ⁽³⁾
metolachlor	ba, be, c, sa, z	E		0	Pennant Magnum
atrazine*	be, c, sa, z	G-E		0	AAtrex 4L
rimsulfuron**	be	G-E		0	TranXit GTA

Postemergence herbicides:

Herbicide	Tolerant Turfs ⁽¹⁾	Average Efficacy Rating ⁽²⁾	Range of Trial Efficacy Values, %	Number of Trials	Products ⁽³⁾
trifloxysulfuron-sodium	be, z	E	91 - 100	7	Monument
metsulfuron	be, sa, z	E	99 - 100	5	Escort**, Manor
glyphosate		E	84 - 99	2	Glyphosate Original, Roundup, Touchdown Pro**
rimsulfuron**	be	E	98 - 100	2	TranXit GTA
simazine	be, c, sa, z	E	97	1	Princep
2,4-D & triclopyr*	bk, f, r	E		0	Chaser
bentazon	ba, bc, be, bk, c, f, sa, z	E		0	Basagran T/O
clopyralid**	ba, bc, be, bk, c, f, r, sa, z	E		0	Lontrel
dicamba	ba, be, bk, f, r, z	E		0	Banvel, Clarity, Vanquish
imazaquin	be, c, sa, z	E		0	Image
clopyralid & triclopyr**	be, bk, c, f, r, z	G	66 - 96	4	Confront

Postemergence herbicides:

Herbicide	Tolerant Turfs ⁽¹⁾	Average Efficacy Rating ⁽²⁾	Range of Trial Efficacy Values, %	Number of Trials	Products ⁽³⁾
metsulfuron & sulfosulfuron	be, sa, z	G	56 - 100	3	Certainty & Manor
atrazine & sulfosulfuron*	be, c, sa, z	G	79 - 100	2	AAtrex 4L & Certainty
bispyribac sodium	be, r	G	79 - 100	2	Velocity
atrazine*	be, c, sa, z	G	84	1	AAtrex 4L
metribuzin	be	G		0	Sencor 75 Turf
2,4-D	be, bk, f, r, z	G		0	2,4-D amine, Solution Water Soluble
fluroxypyr & sulfosulfuron	ba, c, sa, z	F	69 - 88	2	Certainty & Spotlight

* For use only by or under the supervision of a certified applicator, or by commercial nursery, turf, and landscape personnel.

** Not for application to residential lawns.

Footnotes:

(1) **Turfgrass Codes:**

- ba bahiagrass
- bc bentgrass, creeping
- be bermudagrass
- bk bluegrass, Kentucky
- c centipedegrass
- f fescue, tall
- r ryegrass, perennial
- sa St. Augustinegrass
- z zoysiagrass
- blank No turfgrass in the database is completely tolerant. Check label to see if chemical can be used at a reduced rate or during the dormant season on your turfgrass.

(2) **Efficacy Ratings:**

- E excellent control (90 to 100%)
- G good control (80 to 90%)
- F fair control (70 to 80%)

Efficacy ratings are based on herbicide trials performed by weed scientists at North Carolina State University between 1997 and 2007. The number of trials included in the efficacy ratings is displayed in the next-to-last column. The higher this number, the more confidence can be placed in the efficacy values. Trials may have involved sequential applications of one or more chemical. Details of individual trials (herbicide rates, dates of application, environmental conditions at time of application, etc) can be viewed on the TurfFiles web site, through the [Turf Weed Management Decision Aid](#).

Efficacy ratings for chemicals lacking trial data are from "[Pest Management Strategic Plan for Turfgrass in the Southern United States](#)," a summary of a workshop for turf experts from multiple universities held in Griffin, GA in October, 2004. The workshop was sponsored by the Southern Region Integrated Pest Management Center.

(3) 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.

Links contained in this document:

Glossary: <http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/Glossary.aspx>

Pest Management Strategic Plan: <http://www.ipmcenters.org/pmsp/pdf/SouthernTurfgrass.pdf>

Turf & Weed Identification Decision Aid: <http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/turfid/>

Turf Weed Management Decision Aid: <http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/turfweedmgmt/>

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