

# Chickweed, Mouseear

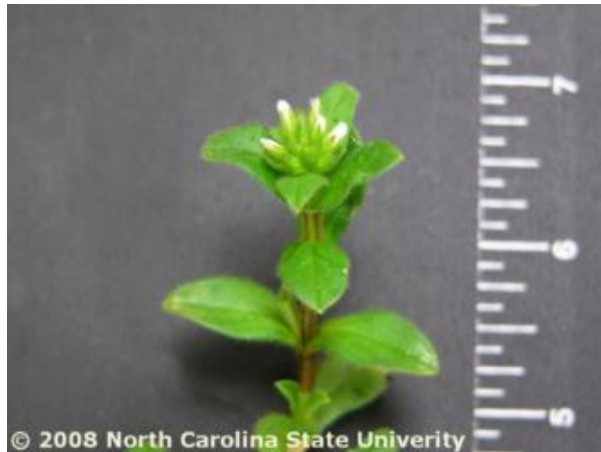
[*Cerastium vulgatum* L.]

## DESCRIPTION

Mouseear chickweed acts as a winter annual in eastern North Carolina and as a perennial in the western part of the state, especially at higher elevations. It has a vigorous prostrate growth habit. Hairy stems may creep along the ground and take root at nodes touching the soil. The small, white flowers have five slightly notched petals. Mouseear chickweed is similar in growth habit (spreading) and appearance to common chickweed, but mouseear chickweed leaves are dark green or gray-green, and are covered with soft hairs.



Characteristic	Description
Growth Season	winter annual or biennial or perennial weed
Growth Habit	prostrate, spreading
Leaflet Number	one
Leaf Margin	smooth
Leaf Hairs	very dense, soft hairs on upper surface, hairs on veins on bottom surface
Leaf/Leaflet Shape	oval to elliptical without petiole
Leaf Width	1/2 - 1 inch
Leaf Venation	pinnate
Leaf Arrangement	opposite
Root Type	fibrous
Flower Color	white



mouseear chickweed flowers and leaves



mouseear chickweed stem

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

Chickweed will survive under close mowing, forming dense patches which crowd out the desirable turfgrass. This weed quickly invades thin turf areas especially where there is good soil moisture. Shade and frequent watering encourage chickweed growth.

## CHEMICAL CONTROL

Certain preemergence herbicides may be used to control chickweed in areas where reseeding or overseeding of turf is not planned. These are applied in the fall prior to expected germination of chickweed, which is encouraged by cool temperatures and adequate moisture. Mouseear chickweed is more easily controlled with postemergence three or four-way herbicides applied in the fall compared to the spring.

### *Preemergence herbicides:*

Herbicide	Tolerant Turfs <sup>(1)</sup>	Average Efficacy Rating <sup>(2)</sup>	Range of Trial Efficacy Values, %	Number of Trials	Products <sup>(3)</sup>
soil fumigant		E	100	2	Basamid
isoxaben	ba, bc, be, bk, c, f, r, sa, z	G		0	Gallery 75
pendimethalin	ba, be, bk, c, f, r, sa, z	G		0	Pendulum, PRE-M, Scott's Turf Builder With Halts
pronamide*	be	G		0	Kerb

### *Postemergence herbicides:*

Herbicide	Tolerant Turfs <sup>(1)</sup>	Average Efficacy Rating <sup>(2)</sup>	Range of Trial Efficacy Values, %	Number of Trials	Products <sup>(3)</sup>
trifloxysulfuron-sodium	be, z	E	100	5	Monument
metsulfuron	be, sa, z	E	100	4	Escort**, Manor
atrazine*	be, c, sa, z	E	100	1	AAtrex 4L
rimsulfuron**	be	E	99	1	TranXit GTA
dicamba	ba, be, bk, f, r, z	E		0	Banvel, Clarity, Vanquish
glyphosate		E		0	Glyphosate Original, Roundup, Touchdown Pro**
metribuzin	be	E		0	Sencor 75 Turf
2,4-D & carfentrazone & dicamba & mecoprop	ba, bc, be, bk, f, r, z	G	69 - 100	2	Speed Zone, Speed Zone Southern
dicamba & MCPA & triclopyr	ba, bc, be, bk, f, r, z	G	84	1	Cool Power, Horsepower
foramsulfuron	be, z	G	81	1	Revolver
imazaquin	be, c, sa, z	G		0	Image

\* 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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