

Cudweed

[*Gnaphalium*, *Pseudognaphalium*, & *Gamochoeta* spp.]

DESCRIPTION

The cudweeds are comprised of many different species that are similar in growth habits and control measures. In general, the cudweeds have basal rosettes and the leaves and seedheads are covered in distinct fine, white "wooly" fibers. Some cudweeds only have this hair on the undersides of the leaves, and other cudweeds have this hair on all surfaces. Cudweeds overwinter as small basal rosettes, but in the spring usually grow an upright stem.



Characteristic	Description
Growth Season	summer annual or winter annual or biennial weed
Growth Habit	upright; rosette
Leaflet Number	one
Leaf Margin	smooth
Leaf Hairs	upper/lower surface
Leaf/Leaflet Shape	oval/egg-shaped/elliptical
Leaf Width	1/2 - 2 inches
Leaf Venation	pinnate; leaf venation is hard to see, but leaves usually look like they have been folded or creased
Leaf Arrangement	whorled or basal rosette
Root Type	taproot
Flower Color	flower is tanish white, and produces a white fiber



cudweed



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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

Proper turf management is important for biennial broadleaf weed control. Maintain a dense, actively growing turf through proper mowing, fertilizing, and watering practices. Mow at the proper height for your

selected adapted turfgrass. Coring and traffic control reduce compaction and encourage desirable turfgrass competition. It is best to control this biennial broadleaf weed in spring or fall, if actively growing at these times.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Cudweed species are biennial plants but are relatively easy to control. Two, three, and four way broadleaf herbicides control postemergence as do metribuzin (Sencor) and repeat applications of metsulfuron (Manor, Blade, etc.). Apply in the spring while in rosette stage and before seed stalk formation.

Preemergence herbicides:

Herbicide	Tolerant Turfs ⁽¹⁾	Average Efficacy Rating ⁽²⁾	Range of Trial Efficacy Values, %	Number of Trials	Products ⁽³⁾
atrazine*	be, c, sa, z	E		0	AAtrex 4L
isoxaben	ba, bc, be, bk, c, f, r, sa, z	F		0	Gallery 75

Postemergence herbicides:

Herbicide	Tolerant Turfs ⁽¹⁾	Average Efficacy Rating ⁽²⁾	Range of Trial Efficacy Values, %	Number of Trials	Products ⁽³⁾
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
2,4-D	be, bk, f, r, z	G-E		0	2,4-D amine, Solution Water Soluble
2,4-D & triclopyr*	bk, f, r	G-E		0	Chaser
clopyralid & triclopyr**	be, bk, c, f, r, z	G-E		0	Confront
atrazine*	be, c, sa, z	G		0	AAtrex 4L
glyphosate		G		0	Glyphosate Original, Roundup, Touchdown Pro**
MSMA***	be, r	F-G		0	MSMA (various brands)
imazaquin	be, c, sa, z	F		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.

*** MSMA will be phased out in 2009.

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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