

Horseweed

[*Conyza canadensis* (L.) Cronq.]

DESCRIPTION

Horseweed is a winter or summer annual found in waste areas, roadsides and turf. It can vary greatly in height according to the soil it grows in, and the immature rosette looks much different than the mature plant. The erect stem is usually hairy, and is generally branched near the top with small inconspicuous white flowers. The lower leaves are 1 - 4 inches long and toothed, while those scattered along the stem are narrow and smooth. From June to November the plant produces numerous heads of small, inconspicuous white flowers, followed by an abundance of seed.



Characteristic	Description
Growth Season	summer or winter annual weed
Growth Habit	upright; rosette
Leaflet Number	one
Leaf Margin	smooth or serrated/toothed
Leaf Hairs	upper/lower surface
Leaf/Leaflet Shape	linear/oblong/oval/egg-shaped/elliptical; leaves along stem on the mature plant have no petioles
Leaf Width	<1/2 inch; leaves along stem on the mature plant are about 0.4 inches (10 mm) wide
Leaf Venation	
Leaf Arrangement	alternate; whorled or basal rosette
Flower Color	white



horseweed



horseweed seedling

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

Manor (metsulfuron), Confront (clopyralid + triclopyr), Sencor (metribuzin), Lontrel (clopyralid), and Banvel (dicamba) will control this weed.

Postemergence herbicides:

Herbicide	Tolerant Turfs ⁽¹⁾	Average Efficacy Rating ⁽²⁾	Range of Trial Efficacy Values, %	Number of Trials	Products ⁽³⁾
prometon		E	100	2	Spectracide Total Vegetation Killer
2,4-D amine	be, bk, f, r, z	E	97	1	Weedar 64
clopyralid & triclopyr**	be, bk, c, f, r, z	E	99	1	Confront
triclopyr	f, r	G	73 - 99	2	Turflon Ester

** 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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