

Ivy, Ground

[*Glechoma hederacea* L.]

DESCRIPTION

Ground ivy is a perennial with creeping stems, which root at the node. It forms dense patches and thrives in both sun and shade. The leaves are scalloped along the margin, heavily veined and rough on the upper surface. Funnel-shaped blue to violet flowers are found in clusters in leaf axils and occur in the spring. Ground ivy is similar to henbit in some respects but roots at stem nodes whereas henbit does not. Common mallow is also similar but has round stems and alternate leaves.



Characteristic	Description
Growth Season	perennial weed
Growth Habit	prostrate, spreading; stems are square (four-sided) and root at the nodes
Leaflet Number	one
Leaf Margin	serrated/toothed; scalloped
Leaf Hairs	upper/lower surface
Leaf/Leaflet Shape	heart/kidney/spade
Leaf Width	leaves vary in width, from more than 2 inches (50 mm) in diameter at the base of the plant to less than 1/2 inch (13 mm) for newly emerged leaves
Leaf Venation	palmate; prominent veins
Leaf Arrangement	opposite
Root Type	roots are fibrous, but ground ivy also spreads via creeping stems that root at the node
Flower Color	bluish purple with reddish speckles



ground ivy stolon



ground ivy

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

Improving surface drainage, aerating when needed, and watering infrequently will help reduce ground ivy encroachment.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Repeat applications of two, three or four way broadleaf herbicides offer fair control. Trifloxysulfuron (Monument) provides excellent control if in bermudagrass or zoysiagrass.

Postemergence herbicides:

Herbicide	Tolerant Turfs ⁽¹⁾	Average Efficacy Rating ⁽²⁾	Range of Trial Efficacy Values, %	Number of Trials	Products ⁽³⁾
clopyralid & triclopyr**	be, bk, c, f, r, z	G-E		0	Confront
2,4-D & triclopyr*	bk, f, r	G		0	Chaser
dicamba	ba, be, bk, f, r, z	G		0	Banvel, Clarity, Vanquish
fluroxypyr	ba, bk, c, f, r, sa, z	G		0	Spotlight
glyphosate		G		0	Glyphosate Original, Roundup, Touchdown Pro**

* 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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