

Knawel

[*Scleranthus annuus* L.]

DESCRIPTION

Knawel is a winter annual which, when it first germinates, may go unnoticed because of its grasslike features. It closely resembles parsley-piert and lawn burrweed. It is a freely branched plant with spreading stems. Leaves, clasping the stem, are opposite, linear, less than 1 mm wide, and sharp-pointed. The very inconspicuous flowers are clustered in the leaf axils. They are small, green, lacking petals, and somewhat spiny to the touch.



Characteristic	Description
Growth Season	winter annual weed
Growth Habit	prostrate, spreading; can form low mats or clumps in established turfgrass
Leaflet Number	four or more
Leaf Margin	smooth
Leaf Hairs	none
Leaf/Leaflet Shape	linear/oblong
Leaf Width	<1/2 inch
Leaf Venation	parallel
Leaf Arrangement	opposite
Root Type	fibrous; taproot
Flower Color	very inconspicuous green flowers



knawel in turf



knawel (L) parsley-piert (R)

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

Knawel is controlled with postemergence two, three and four way broadleaf herbicides applied in the fall or spring.

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