

Bermudagrass

[*Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.]

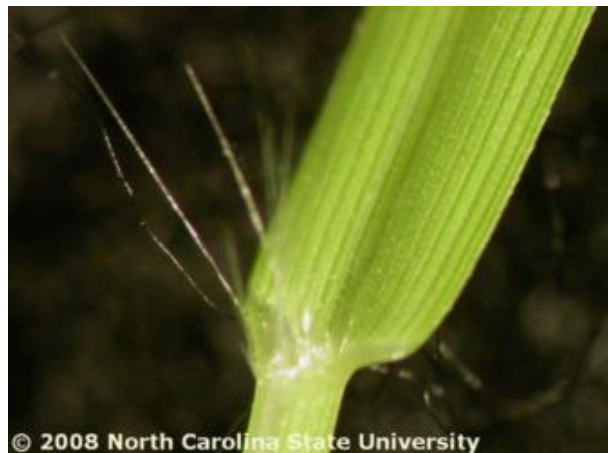
Bermudagrass is a medium- to fine-textured warm-season turfgrass that spreads by rhizomes and stolons. It has excellent heat, drought, and salt tolerance but does not do well in shade. Bermudagrass is the most widely used species on athletic fields and golf course fairways/tee boxes due to its high wear tolerance and rapid recovery. It can also be a very invasive and hard to control weed in some turf settings. Bermudagrass can be confused with nimblewill. However, nimblewill has a membranous ligule, which can be distinguished from the hairy ligule of bermudagrass. Bermudagrass is also often confused with zoysiagrass, but zoysiagrass has hairs standing upright on the leaf blade, whereas bermudagrass does not. Zoysiagrass is also stiff to the touch and offers more resistance to your hand than bermudagrass. Zoysiagrass leaf vernation is rolled whereas bermudagrass leaf vernation is folded. There are many different hybrids of bermudagrass that range from fine to coarse in leaf texture. As a weed, bermudagrass is sometimes referred to as wiregrass.



Characteristic	Description
Seedhead / Flower	raceme; 3-5 spikes that join at the top of a main stem.
Vernation Type	leaves folded in the bud
Ligule Type	fringe of hairs 0.04 - 0.12 inches (1 - 3 mm) long
Growth Season / Life Cycle	warm season turf or perennial weed
Auricle Type	absent
Leaf Blade Tip Shape	sharp-pointed; sparsely hairy, edges rough, leaf blade soft
Leaf Blade Width	0.06 - 0.1 inches (1.5 - 3 mm) wide
Stolon Presence	present; stout
Rhizome Presence	present; stout
Collar Type	continuous; not hairy, may be hairy on edges
Sheath Margin	open
Sheath Type	sheath is sparsely hairy; flattened to round, loose



bermudagrass (as a weed)



bermudagrass ligule, auricle

Note: Still not sure this is the right turfgrass? [The Turf & Weed Identification Decision Aid](#) may help. Check the TurfFiles [glossary](#) for definitions of unfamiliar terms.

Need help in selecting the best turfgrass for your particular situation? The [Turf/Cultivar Selection Decision Aid](#) will help you sort through the options which are available. For more information on turfgrass/cultivar selection, establishing a new lawn, caring for a new lawn, or renovating a lawn, see [AG-69, Carolina Lawns](#). For management information, check the [maintenance calendar](#).

Diseases Which May Affect This Turfgrass

[dollar spot](#)

[fairy ring](#)

[large patch](#)

[leaf spot / melting out](#)

[Microdochium patch \(pink snow mold\)](#)

[Pythium root rot](#)

[slime mold](#)

[spring dead spot](#)

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