

# Bluegrass, Rough

[*Poa trivialis* L.]

Rough (also called roughstalk) bluegrass has a relatively limited adaptation as a turf species because of intolerance to heat, drought, and traffic. It is also very patchy in appearance and therefore does not perform well in mixtures. However, rough bluegrass is sometimes used alone or in combination with perennial ryegrass for winter overseeding of golf course putting greens. Rough bluegrass can often be confused with Kentucky bluegrass. One way to distinguish them is to examine the root structures: rough bluegrass has stolons (above ground) and Kentucky bluegrass has rhizomes (below ground). Another way to distinguish between them is that rough bluegrass has a long, pointed membranous ligule and Kentucky bluegrass has a short, even membranous ligule.



Characteristic	Description
Seedhead / Flower	seedhead is a panicle with flattened spikelets with 2-3 seeds each
Vernation Type	leaves folded in the bud
Ligule Type	membranous; sharp pointed, entire, may be hairs along the edge, 0.16 - 0.24 inches (4 - 6 mm) long
Growth Season / Life Cycle	cool season turf or perennial weed
Auricle Type	absent
Leaf Blade Tip Shape	boat shaped; flat, sharply creased, glossy, edges rough at least near tip; two distinct, clear lines, one on each side of the midrib
Leaf Blade Width	0.04 - 0.16 inches (1 - 4 mm) wide
Stolon Presence	present
Rhizome Presence	absent
Collar Type	divided by midrib, distinct
Sheath Margin	open part way only
Sheath Type	flattened; sheath is usually rough; sharply creased



rough bluegrass ligule



rough bluegrass

**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.

## **Diseases Which May Affect This Turfgrass**

[brown patch](#)

[damping off](#)

[dollar spot](#)

[fairy ring](#)

[gray snow mold](#)

[leaf spot / melting out](#)

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

[Pythium blight](#)

[Pythium root rot](#)

[slime mold](#)

[yellow tuft](#)

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