



# POA ANNUA

**WEED:** Poa annua, or annual bluegrass, is one of the most common turf weeds. Kentucky bluegrass and rough bluegrass are commonly used as cool season turf, and are related to annual bluegrass.

Annual bluegrass starts germinating in late summer or fall as soil temperatures fall below 70 degrees. It continues to germinate throughout the winter. If left unmowed, it will grow to a height of 6-8". It is a rapid and prolific seeder. Poa has a weak and shallow root system, and needs good moisture to survive. It grows well in moist areas in full sun, and can also do well in semi-shaded conditions. It can also grow in compacted soil conditions. Because of its rapid seed production, complete eradication of Poa is nearly impossible.

**CONTROL:** No single control procedure has been successful in controlling annual bluegrass in turfgrass. Preemergent herbicides such as Barricade, Dimension, and Halts, have been successful in limiting germination, but they must be applied before weed seeds germinate. To limit bluegrass germination during winter, apply preemergents in late summer or early fall when soil temps drop below 70 degrees. There is no postemergent control available, short of using glyphosate (Roundup) and killing everything and starting over.

Preemergent herbicides such as Surflan, Treflan, Halts and Barricade can be used to limit seedling germination in ornamental landscape beds. They should be applied in fall when soil temps are below 70 degrees. They are of little benefit if annual bluegrass plants are already present.

below: Poa annua starting to form seedheads



below: Poa annua gone to seed

