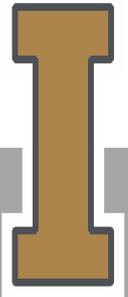


# What is this weed and what can I do about it?



**Conditions: Overwatering; compacted soil**



# ANNUAL BLUEGRASS (*POA ANNUA*)

## Description:

A common grassy weed in lawns and landscapes during wet or cool seasons.

Can grow to a height of 6 to 8 inches tall when left unmowed.

Rapidly produces flowers and seeds.

Its boat-shaped leaf tip distinguishes it from other weedy grasses.

## Management:

Maintain a vigorous lawn in the colder months.

Don't overwater.

Remove new bluegrass plants before they flower.

Open spots should be overseeded to establish a vigorous turfgrass.

Removal of grass clippings may help reduce the number of seeds that reach the soil.

**I** Preemergent herbicides may be used where problems are severe—but you must fix compaction and overwatering problems.



Boat-shaped leaf tip

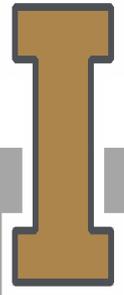
## Flower



# What is this weed and what can I do about it?



**Conditions: low nitrogen fertility**



# BLACK MEDIC (*MEDICAGO LUPULINA*)

## Description:

Low-growing summer or winter annual broadleaf plant that sometimes behaves as a short-lived perennial.

Leaves are fully divided into three egg- to heart-shaped leaflets with somewhat toothed edges.

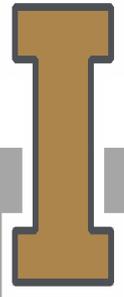
Flowers bloom from April through July. Usually ten to twenty yellow, slender, pealike flowers densely cluster to form a rounded flower head.

Fruits are kidney-shaped pods about 1/12 to 1/8 of an inch (2–3 mm) long, strongly veined, and black at maturity.

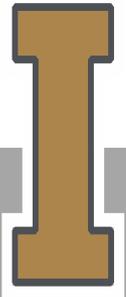
## Management:

Insuring a thick stand of grass can help exclude clovers in turf.

Adjust the fertilizer program to include more nitrogen and less phosphorus in turfgrass.



# What is this weed and what can I do about it?



**Conditions:** previous infestation in lawn; close mowing;  
sun and heat

# BERMUDAGRASS (*CYNODON* *DACTYLON*)

Description:

A low-growing, wiry perennial that aggressively invades gardens and lawns through growth of aboveground and below ground stems.

Flowering stems are upright and have a group of 3 to 7 spikelike branches, usually originating in a single point on the tips of the stem.

Seed head is similar to that of crabgrass but the seed heads originate 1/8 to 1/4-inch apart at the end of the stem.

Grows best in sunny locations.

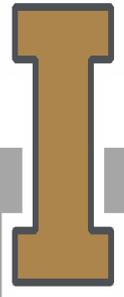
Management:

Difficult to control-- persistent removal and pre-plant soil solarization are alternatives to chemical controls.

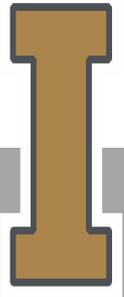
Large patches can be removed with the nonselective herbicide glyphosate and then replanted with turf.



Flowering stems of bermudagrass (left) and crabgrass (right).



# What is this weed and what can I do about it?



# QUACKGRASS (*ELYTRIGIA REPENS*)

## Description:

Quackgrass, a perennial grass, thrives on different soil types, in gravel and peat, and also under saline and alkaline conditions..

Plants that sprout from belowground horizontal stem (rhizome) buds form their own rhizomes at the three-to-four-leaf stage.

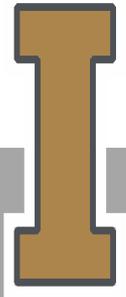
Quackgrass is erect, can form clumps, and grows to almost 4 feet (1.2 m) tall. Stems are round in cross-section and stem joints (nodes) appear swollen. Leaves are flat, about 1-3/5 to 12 inches (4–30 cm) long and 4/5 to 5-1/2 inches (2–14 mm) wide, droop, and are often constricted at the tip. The sheath is open, hairless or covered with short, soft hairs. The ligule is membranous with a fine fringe. Auricles are narrow, clasp the stem, and tinged whitish to violet.

## Management:

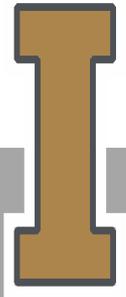
Aerate lawn

Dig out plants

Herbicides



# What is this weed and what can I do about it?



**Conditions: high nitrogen fertility**

# CHICKWEED (*STELLARIA MEDIA*)

## Description:

A low-growing, succulent, cool season weed that often spreads out in extensive mats.

Flowers are small with five deeply cut white petals.

## Management:

Maintain a thick vigorous lawn to prevent chickweed seedlings from establishing.

Deep, infrequent lawn irrigation discourages chickweed infestations.

Follow fertilization guidelines as recommended for a particular turf species and avoid overapplication of nitrogen.

**I** Hand-pull chickweed before it flowers and produces seed. When hand weeding, make sure to remove plants from the area because they can reroot.

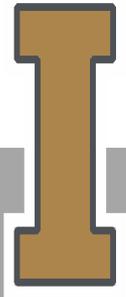


Chickweed in turf.



Flower of chickweed

# What is this weed and what can I do about it?



Conditions: low nitrogen fertility

# CLOVERS

## Description:

Clovers are low-growing plants with leaves consisting of three leaflets and characterized by white, pink or yellow flowers.

Often confused with woodsorrel or Bermuda buttercup.

## Management:

To favor lawn growth and reduce clovers, fertilize with more nitrogen and less phosphorus.

Once clover is established, the annual clovers can be controlled by hand-pulling before seeds are formed. Hand-pulling will need to be repeated as new germination occurs and desirable turfgrass is planted in weeded areas.

The best herbicide to use depends upon the species of turfgrass. Warm-season turfgrasses will tolerate products containing mecoprop and dicamba but not triclopyr. Cool-season turfgrasses will tolerate all of the herbicides that control clover. The herbicide 2,4-D is not effective for clover control; it will injure the plant but does not control it.



California burclover

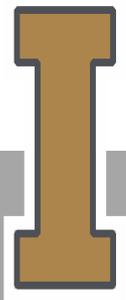


White bands on leaflets of white clover



Mature plant of white clover

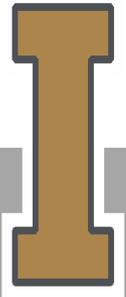
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# What is this weed and what can I do about it?



**Conditions: compacted soil**



# CRABGRASS (*DIGITARIA* SPP.)

## Description:

A grassy annual with wide leaves that thrives in the summer.

Seedlings sprout quickly, forming a clump with extensive but shallow roots where soil is moist.

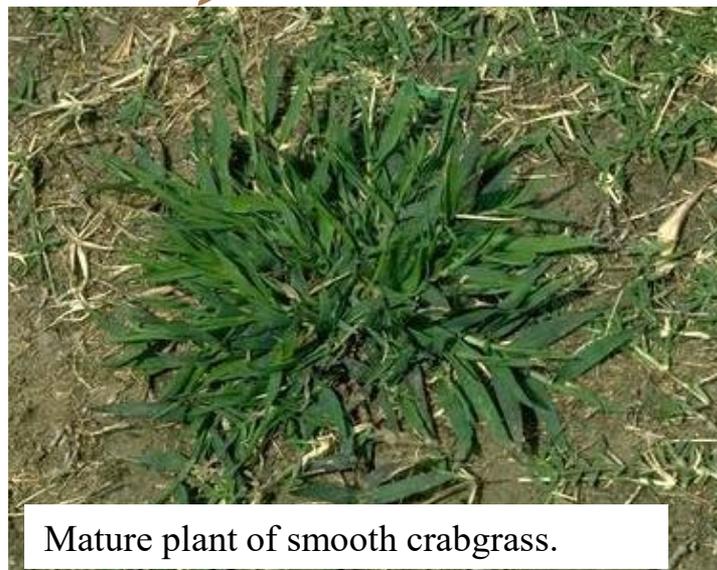
Seed heads can be used to differentiate between crabgrass, dallisgrass and bermudagrass.

## Management:

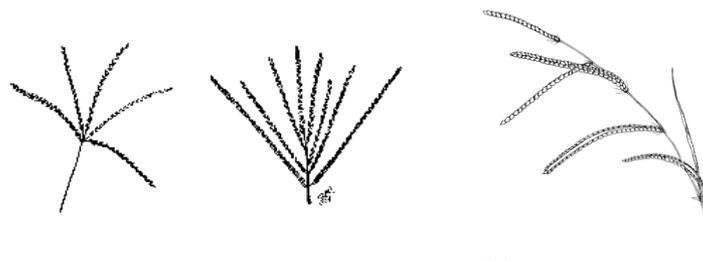
Proper lawn care practices such as mowing at the correct height for your specific turf, selecting the best turf species for your area, overseeding to keep turfgrass thick, applying fertilizer at the correct time of year, and proper irrigation can help decrease crabgrass infestation.

Hand-pulling will help reduce infestation.

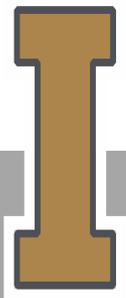
If a weed-preventing herbicide is used, it must be applied in late winter as a pre-emergent to be effective.



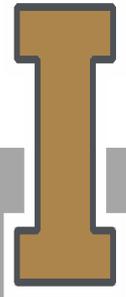
Mature plant of smooth crabgrass.



Seed heads of bermudagrass (left), crabgrass (center), and dallisgrass (right).



# What is this weed and what can I do about it?



**Conditions: compacted soil**

# CREeping WOODSORREL (*OXALIS* *CORNICULATA*)

## Description:

A perennial with three heart-shaped leaflets that may be green or purple.

Attractive yellow flowers occur singly or in small groups.

Resembles Bermuda buttercup, but the flowers are not as large and showy and the growth is less upright.

## Management:

Established plants are difficult to control, especially in lawns.

Practices that favor a vigorous lawns also favor creeping woodsorrel.

After using a lawn mower where creeping woodsorrel grows, wash or air spray the machine to remove all seeds and clippings before mowing weed-free turf.

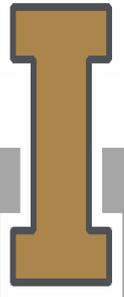
A few herbicides are available to kill young plants



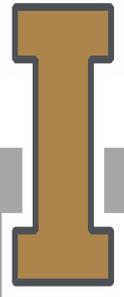
Heart-shaped leaflets and seed capsules (arrow).



Flowers of woodsorrel



# What is this weed and what can I do about it?



# DANDELION (*TARAXACUM OFFICINALE*)

## Description:

Forms a flat rosette of deeply toothed leaves from which tall flower stalks grow.

Bright yellow flowers turn into white puffs when seeds develop.

Produces a strong taproot that can grow back even when old plant top is cut off.

## Management:

Solitary plants should be removed using a dandelion tool, digging out the entire plant, taproot and all.

Maintain a vigorous lawn and use landscape fabrics and mulches in planting beds.

Don't allow seed heads to develop.

Don't over-water lawn.

Herbicides don't control established plants



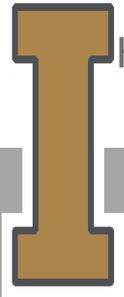
Mature plant w/ flowers



Deeply toothed leaf margin of dandelion



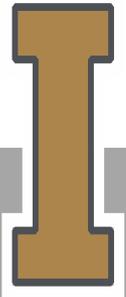
Hand removal of entire plant with dandelion tool



# What is this weed and what can I do about it?



**Conditions: compacted soil**



# COMMON KNOTWEED (*POLYGONUM ARENASTRUM*)

## Description:

Grows in low-lying mats where soil is compacted.

Leaves are bluish-green in color with narrow, egg-shaped blades.

Often resembles spotted spurge in mowed areas. Distinguish by breaking a stem - if a milky white sap appears, the plant is **spurge**.

## Management:

Reduce soil compaction where knotweed is found.

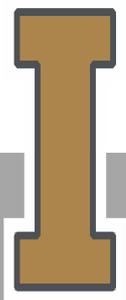
Aerate lawn and renovate as necessary



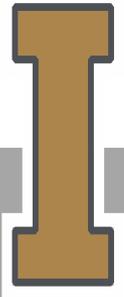
Mature plant



Small flowers and egg-shaped leaves of knotweed



# What is this weed and what can I do about it?



**Conditions: compacted soil**

# MALLOW (*MALVA PARVIFLORA*)

## Description:

An annual that starts appearing in late summer with leaves that are roundish with wavy margins.

Flowers are white with a blue or pinkish tinge and five petals.

The fruit resembles a miniature wheel of cheese.

Develops a strong, deep tap root very quickly.

## Management:

Hand-pull young plants before they produce seeds and the thick tap root.

Products containing glyphosate are NOT effective for controlling mallow.

There are no home use herbicides that are effective against mallow in turf.



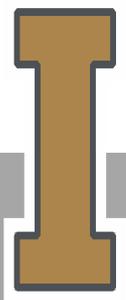
Mallow in turf showing thick tap root



Flowers



Wheel-shaped fruit



# What is this weed and what can I do about it?



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**Conditions: wet, sunny**

# NUTSEdge (*CYPERUS* spp.)

## Description:

Most often found in wet or overwatered locations, these grass-like weeds have leaves that are thicker and stiffer than true grasses.

Leaves are arranged in sets of three at the base and plant height varies from 6 to 30 inches.

The flowering stem is triangular in cross section.

Produce underground tubers that grow to form new plants.

Often confused with another sedge, green kyllinga, which has flowers that are round rather than spiky.

## Management:

Very difficult to control once tubers form.

Hand pull or hoe small plants before they have 5 to 6 leaves and produce tubers.

Reduce populations by shading, drying and with properly timed herbicide applications (before 5-6 leaves).



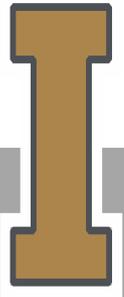
Yellow nutsedge flowers



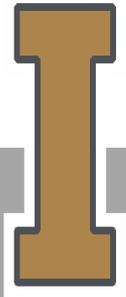
Underground tubers



Cross section of nutsedge stem showing triangular edges.



# What is this weed and what can I do about it?



**Conditions:** Overwatering; compacted soil; poorly maintained open turf areas; shaded areas in warm climates

# PLANTAIN (*PLANTAGO* SPP.)

## Description:

Plantains form flattened rosettes of sturdy leaves and a weak root system.

Broadleaf plantain has wider leaves and longer flower stalks than buckhorn plantain.

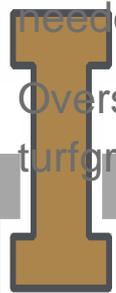
## Management:

Remove plants as soon as you see them, ideally before they produce flowers and set seed.

In lawns, frequent plant removal may be required.

For serious infestations, spot treatments of herbicides containing 2,4-D or triclopyr may be needed.

Overseed bare areas to establish vigorous turfgrass.



See UC IPM's [Plantains Pest Note](#)



Broadleaf plantain mature plant (above) and flower stalk (left).

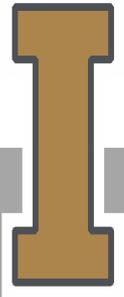


Buckhorn plantain mature plant (above) and flower stalk (left).

# What is this weed and what can I do about it?



**Conditions: Closely mowed turf with low areas; low nitrogen fertility**



# SPOTTED AND CREEPING SPURGE

## *EUPHORBIA* SPP.

### Description:

Grows in a flat dense mat, rapidly spreading over bare areas of lawn or planting beds.

**Spotted spurge** has leaves that are dark green with a red spot in the center leaf vein. Stems radiate out from one point but do not produce roots.

**Creeping spurge** does not have a red spot and is harder to control because it roots along the stems.

The stem exudes a milky sap when broken.

### Management:

Hand-pull new plants before they produce seed, removing all parts of the plant to prevent regrowth.

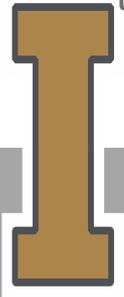
Maintain a healthy lawn by properly fertilizing, watering, and mowing at the correct height for your turf species.



Mature plant of spotted spurge



Leaves with red spots and broken stem, showing milky sap

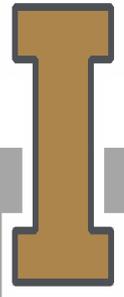


# What is this weed and what can I do about it?



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**Conditions: Moist areas of turf**



# ENGLISH DAISY (*BELLAS PERENNIS*)

## Description:

English daisy is a low-growing perennial which is grown as an ornamental but can be a weed in turf.

Leaves are egg/spoon shaped with a rounded tip and form basal rosettes that grow prostrate.

Flower heads are showy; their outer white or pinkish “petals” are actually small ray flowers and their yellow centers consist of tiny disc flowers.

## Management:

Keep turf on dry side.

Practice proper lawn management and maintain a vigorous competitive turfgrass.

Many people find the daisies attractive in lawns

Can't be controlled with selective herbicides in lawns

