ENH1133

UF IFAS Extension
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Turfgrass Science

Goosegrass Biology and Management in Turf[1]

Darcy E. P. Telenko, Ramon G. Leon, and J. Bryan Unruh [2]

Goosegrass (*Eleusine indica*), also known as silver crabgrass or crowfoot, is a major turf weed found throughout Florida. It is a tough, clumped, dark green summer annual with a generally "whitish to silverish" coloration at the center of the plant. The leaf blade is smooth on both surfaces, and occasionally a few hairs can be found near the base on the edge of the blade. It measures 0.2 to 0.4 inches wide. The visible ligule is short toothed and membranous. Seedhead spikelets form in two rows on 2 to 13 "fingers." Frequently, a single finger will form below the terminal cluster of fingers. Goosegrass tolerates close mowing and compacted wet or dry soils. In the spring, goosegrass germinates when soil temperatures reach 63°F–65°F for at least 24 consecutive hours.

Turf management practices that reduce soil compaction and excess soil moisture and that maintain healthy turf will minimize goosegrass infestation. A number of preemergence herbicides are available for goosegrass control, and applications should be made in late winter or early spring when soil temperatures reach 60°F for 24 consecutive hours to ensure proper placement of the herbicide before goosegrass germination. Postemergence control is dependent on turfgrass species and requires repeat applications of herbicides for successful goosegrass management.

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[2] Darcy E. P. Telenko, former postdoctoral research associate; Ramon G. Leon, assistant professor, Agronomy Department; and J. Bryan Unruh, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center, Jay, FL 32565.

Herbicide Options for Controlling Goosegrass in Florida Turfgrass

(Always refer to the label for specific uses, application rates, and turfgrass tolerance)

BER

Preemergence: benefin + oryzalin, benefin + trifluralin, bensulide, dimethenamid-P, dimethenamid-P + pendimethalin, dithiopyr, indaziflam, metolachlor, napropamide, oryzalin, oxadiazon, pendimethalin, prodiamine, prodiamine + isoxaben, prodiamine + sulfentrazone

Postemergence: diclofop-methyl, foramsulfuron, prodiamine+sulfentrazone, sulfentrazone, sulfentrazone+imazethapyr, thiencarbazon + floramsulfuron+halosulfuron

STA

Preemergence: Preemergence: benefin + oryzalin, benefin + trifluralin, dimethenamid-P, dimethenamid-P + pendimethalin, dithiopyr, indaziflam, metolachlor, napropamide, oryzalin, oxadiazon, pendimethalin, prodiamine, prodiamine + isoxaben, prodiamine + sulfentrazone

Postemergence: mesotrione (sod production only), sulfentrazone

CENT

Preemergence: benefin + oryzalin, benefin + trifluralin, dimethenamid-P, dimethenamid-P + pendimethalin, dithiopyr, indaziflam, metolachlor, napropamide, oryzalin, pendimethalin, prodiamine, prodiamine + isoxaben, prodiamine + sulfentrazone

Postemergence: clethodim (sod production only), mesotrione, prodiamine + sulfentrazone, sethoxydim, sulfentrazone, sulfentrazone + imazethapyr

BAHI

Preemergence: benefin + oryzalin, benefin + trifluralin, dimethenamid-P, dithiopyr, indaziflam, metolachlor, napropamide, oryzalin, pendimethalin, prodiamine, prodiamine + isoxaben, prodiamine + sulfentrazone

Postemergence: prodiamine + sulfentrazone, sulfentrazone, sulfentrazone + imazethapyr

PASP

Preemergence: dimethenamid-P, dimethenamid-P + pendimethalin, dithiopyr, indaziflam, oxadiazon, pendimethalin, prodiamine, prodiamine + isoxaben, prodiamine + sulfentrazone

Postemergence: prodiamine + sulfentrazone, sulfentrazone

ZOYS

Preemergence: Preemergence: benefin + oryzalin, benefin + trifluralin, bensulide + oxadiazon, dimethenamid-P, dimethenamid-P + pendimethalin, dithiopyr, indaziflam, metolachlor, napropamide, oryzalin, oxadiazon, pendimethalin, prodiamine, prodiamine + isoxaben

Postemergence: fenoxaprop, fluazifop, formasulfuron, prodiamine + sulfentrazone, sulfentrazone, sulfentrazone + imazethapyr

RYE

Preemergence: bensulide, dithiopyr, oxadiazone, pendimethalin, prodiamine

Postemergence: fenoxaprop (unless on overseeded turf), sulfentrazone

BER=Bermudagrass; STA=St. Augustinegrass; CENT=Centipedegrass; BAHI=Bahiagrass; PASP=Seashore paspalum; ZOYS=Zoysiagrass; RYE=Perennial rye

Refer to the publication *Pest Control Guide for Turfgrass Managers* at http://turf.ufl.edu/pdf/2012_UF_Pest_Control_Guide.pdf for brand names associated with chemical names listed.