

Annual Blue Grass



Annual bluegrass is one of the five most widely distributed plants in the world. You will recognize this plant by its light green color compared to most other turfgrasses, but more specifically by its prolific seedhead formation in mid-spring. Unfortunately, there is really nothing that can be done now other than to mow the turf to reduce seedhead numbers and improve turf uniformity. Most Poa behaves as a true winter annual plant; that is, it germinates in the fall, produces seed in the spring, and dies. Hence, the plant is nearing death very soon, so any attempts at chemical control are pretty much pointless at this time. Poa is an annual problem because of the prolific number of seed that it produces. The seed may lie dormant in the soil for many years before germinating, resulting in a significant build-up of indigenous seed overtime, so you will never eradicate it from your lawn and landscape—you will only be able to manage it. It tends to be more prolific during wet seasons. It grows well under short days and cool conditions, and it will out-compete most other turf species during late fall and early spring. This grass will typically thin and die out during the heat and drought of summer.



Annual bluegrass puts on a showy display of its seedheads every spring just before it dies in our summer heat