

# Orchard Grass



Orchardgrass is a clump-forming, or bunch-type, cool-season grassy weed found in many home lawns. It is typically used as a type of grazing or forage grass in pastures but it can be a weed in turf. It's bunch-type growth pattern, light blue-greenish color, ability to tolerate partial shade, and rapid leaf elongation make orchardgrass a problematic weed (plant out of place) in many lawns. Orchardgrass often infests lawns as a contaminant in grass seed, top soil, or in newly established lawns that previously consisted of pasture-land. Orchardgrass can often be found thriving in partially shady conditions that might stress the health of the surrounding, desirable turf. It is easily spotted in lawns when it grows much more quickly and is lighter-green the surrounding turf. Additionally, its bunch-type growth habit doesn't make a particularly dense canopy when it infests lawns, thus only enhancing its status as a grassy weed. Orchardgrass also has a very rapid vertical growing rate compared to other desirable cool-season turf which requires more frequent mowing in order to keep a uniform lawn surface. Additionally, the leaf tips have a tendency to tear or shred, even when the mower blades are sharp. Unfortunately, only nonselective control options exist for orchardgrass in cool-season turf. Spot-treating with a nonselective systemic herbicide such as glyphosate (Roundup) will help to manage orchardgrass in cool-season lawns. For best results, apply when the plants are young and actively growing. Often multiple applications may be necessary to completely eradicate the weed; however, it is important to allow the grass to regrow before making any follow-up applications. Existing clumps of orchardgrass can also be physically removed by hand, pocket knife or shovel/ho.

