

Roughstalk Bluegrass



Roughstalk bluegrass (*Poa trivialis*) is one of the top three perennial grass weeds in Pennsylvania. Roughstalk bluegrass is occasionally used as a turfgrass on shaded sites that are poorly drained, or as a temporary grass for winter play on golf courses in the southern U.S. However, in Pennsylvania it is more common as a weed grass that grows over desirable grasses via runners or stolons. This species looks similar to other turfgrasses, except that it produces a yellow-green color, and grows in patches. Individual plants have a shiny appearance on the back of the leaf blade (abaxial surface), and possess stolons that creep along the soil surface and over the top of desirable turf. Roughstalk bluegrass spreads quickly during cool weather and/or in moist, shaded areas, but tends to turn brown and die back in sunny areas during the summer. Dormant roughstalk bluegrass patches in turf may be up to ten feet in diameter. Unfortunately, this species always seems to survive the heat and drought of summer to live for another day. There is no selective control of roughstalk bluegrass today, though scientists are trying to develop one. Nonselective control with roundup followed by reseeding may offer the best chance of control.

