

Annual bluegrass

Poa annua

Description

Cosmopolitan grass listed as one of the most aggressive weeds invading areas from sea level up to 1200 m in elevation.

Habit

Winter annual, clump-forming fast-growing annual and perennial type grass.

Leaves

Flat, slightly keeled, smooth, abruptly contracted at the apices, boat-shaped tip. Transversely wrinkled and folded into the sheath. Ligule is membranous and usually 2-3 mm.

Stems

Sometimes erect but usually geniculate and rooting at the nodes.

Flowers

Culms are smooth, erect, usually 10-20 cm. tall, solitary or paired branches. Spikelets are 3-5 mm long, lanceolate with 3-5 florets. Glumes are





boat shaped with lower ones reaching 1.5-3 mm long and 1 vein and the upper 2-4 mm long with 3 veins.

Fruits and Seeds

Achene

Habitat

Native to Eurasia. Can be found growing in moist, shady areas and in a wide variety of soils. Common in gardens, lawns, pastures, golf courses, urban parks, stream and lake margins, roadsides and disturbed areas.

Reproduction

By seed. Capable of producing 1050-2250 seeds that are dispersed by wind, water or animals, livestock and vehicles.

Similar

Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Does not appear to have a wide range of pests or parasites. Primary method of control is to prevent new infestations by removal of solitary plants.

Credits

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