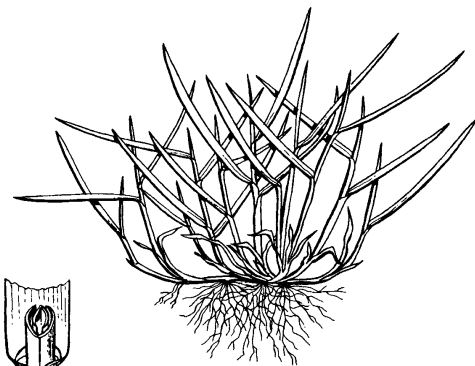


# PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

FIELD AND FORAGE CROPS EDITION \$1.50

NOVEMBER 15, 2001



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## Annual Bluegrass

*Edited by Donna Foulk, Program Associate in Field Crops IPM*

*Reprinted from Field Crop Alert, Penn Jersey Extension Partnership.*

**A**nnual bluegrass is a clump-forming winter annual grass that is frequently found in alfalfa fields in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Annual bluegrass reproduces by seed. Seeds germinate in late summer, early autumn and spring. Clumps enlarge by very *aggressive* tillering, which allows the plant to form a dense carpet in alfalfa fields.

Leaves are light green, smooth, and have a curved, prowl-shaped tip. Each leaf has a slightly pointed ligule at the base. Although annual bluegrass goes dormant in hot, dry weather, it will quickly germinate from seed when cool weather returns.

Both Velpar and Kerb are effective in controlling annual bluegrass in established alfalfa stands. Before using any pesticide, always read the label. Use pesticides only at the recommended time and rates. Where trade names are used, no discrimination or endorsement is implied. For a complete list of pesticides, check the current Agronomy Guide.

Herbicides for Newly Seeded Legumes and stands less than one year		
	App.	Annual grass
2,4-DB	2-4 L	P
Buctril	4 L	P
Pursuit	2 L	F
Poast Plus	post	G
Gramoxone	dorm.	G
Kerb	dorm.	G
Sinbar	dorm.	F

Herbicides for Established Legumes		
	App.	Annual grass
Gramoxone	dorm & bet. cut	G
Kerb	fall-D	G
Lex./Sen	dorm.	F
Poast Plus	post	G
Pursuit	post	F
Sinbar	dorm.	F
Velpar	dorm. & bet. cut	G

# Winter Annuals

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The best weed control in forage is achieved by maintaining a dense, healthy stand. Before using an herbicide, consider the following factors:

- Thin stands do not thicken when weeds are removed. Be sure there are five alfalfa plants per square foot.
- Weeds tolerant of the herbicide may invade the space left by the susceptible species.
- If 25-30% of the stand is weeds, and the stand is at least two years old, treatment is questionable.

Winter annual weeds can invade alfalfa fields and reduce the quality of the first cutting. Winter annuals germinate in fall, remain present in winter, flower and produce seeds in spring, and die out in summer. Below are winter annuals that are commonly found in alfalfa. Scout your fields in fall or winter to determine which weeds are present and weed density. If you choose to use an herbicide, be sure to match the herbicide to the weeds present. Make sure that the alfalfa is dormant before making a dormant application. Even warm, sunny days in November can cause alfalfa to break dormancy.

Before using any pesticide, always read the label. Use pesticides only at the recommended time and rates. Where trade names are used, no discrimination or endorsement is implied. For a complete list of pesticides, check the current Agronomy Guide.

Herbicide Effectiveness on Winter Annuals						
Weed control rating: 9 = 85-95%; 8 = 75-85%; 7 = 65-75%; 6 = 55-65%; N = less than 55% or no control						
Winter Annuals	Gramoxone Extra	Kerb	Pursuit	Sencor/Lexone	Sinbar	Velpar
Chickweed, common	9	8	8+	9	9	9
Henbit/red dead nettle	9	8	7	9	9	9
Mustard, wild	9	6	9	9	9	9
Pennycress, field	9	6	9	9	9	9
Shepherd's purse	9	6	8+	9	9	9
Yellow rocket	8	N	8+	9	9	9

Herbicides for Use in Legume Forages over One-Year-Old				
Herbicide <sup>1</sup>	Application	Product/A	Crop	Remarks
Gramoxone Extra 2.5S (paraquat)	Dormant	0.8-3.0 pt.	Alfalfa	Do not apply if fall regrowth following the last fall cutting is more than 6 inches high. Do not apply if new spring growth exceeds 1 inch. Weeds should be small and actively growing.
Kerb 50W (pronamide)	Dormant or growing	1-3 lb.	Alfalfa	Apply in fall or early winter before soil freeze-up. Apply when soil is 55°F or less.
Lexone/Sencor 4L/75DF (metribuzin)	Dormant	0.38-1 qt. 0.5-1.3 lb.	Alfalfa and alfalfa-grass mixtures	Alfalfa may be severely injured in spring if new growth is present. May be applied after dormancy is broken, but prior to 3 inches of new growth, if impregnated on dry fertilizer.
Pursuit 2S or 70DG (imazethapyr)	Post-emergence	3-6 fl. oz. or 1.08-2.16 oz.	Alfalfa and alfalfa-grass mixtures	Apply in spring or fall when weeds are 1-3 inches in height or rosette width. Do not apply Pursuit to alfalfa-grass mixtures during the establishment year or to alfalfa during the last year of the stand (crop rotation considerations).
Sinbar 80W (terbacil)	Dormant	0.5-1.5 lb.	Alfalfa	Apply before weeds germinate or before they exceed 2 inches in height or width. Do not replant to any crop within 2 years after last application.
Velpar 2L/90DF (hexazinone)	Dormant	2-6 pt. 0.5-1.5 lb.	Alfalfa	Apply in spring before 2 inches of new growth and before weeds exceed 2 inches in height. Only corn may be planted 12 months following application. Other crops may be planted 24 months after application.

<sup>1</sup> See specific product label to determine correct rate for soil type and weed species found in individual fields.

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