

Characteristics of Turfgrass Weeds,
continued

BROADLEAF WEEDS

	GROWTH TYPE	METHOD OF PROPAGATION	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Birdseye pearlwort— <i>Sagina procumbens</i>	P	S												
Birdseye speedwell— <i>Veronica persica</i>	A	S												
Black medic— <i>Medicago lupulina</i>	A,P	S												
Broadleaf plantain— <i>Plantago major</i>	P	S												
Buckhorn plantain— <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	P	S												
California burclover— <i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	A	S												
Chickweed— <i>Stellaria media</i>	A	S												
Common purslane— <i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	A	S												
Creeping spurge— <i>Chamaesyce serpens</i>	P	S												
Creeping woodsorrel— <i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	P	S,Rs												
Cudweed— <i>Gnaphalium chilense</i>	A,B	S												
Curly dock— <i>Rumex crispus</i>	P	S												
Cutleaf geranium— <i>Geranium dissectum</i>	A	S												
Dandelion— <i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	P,B	S												
Dichondra— <i>Dichondra micrantha</i>	P	S,St												
English daisy— <i>Bellis perennis</i>	P	S												
Field bindweed— <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	P	S,R												
Field madder— <i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	A	S												
Healall— <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	P	S,Rs												
Henbit— <i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	A	S												
Little mallow— <i>Malva parviflora</i>	B	S												
Mouseear chickweed— <i>Cerastium vulgatum</i>	A,P	S,Rs												
Pennywort— <i>Hydrocotyle umbellata</i>	P	S,Rs												
Prickly lettuce— <i>Lactuca scariola</i>	A	S												
Prostrate knotweed— <i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	A	S												
Red sorrel— <i>Rumex acetosella</i>	P	S												
Scarlet pimpernel— <i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	A	S												
Southern brassbuttons— <i>Cotula australis</i>	A	S												
Spotted catsear— <i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>	P	S												
Spotted spurge— <i>Euphorbia maculata</i>	A	S												
Spurweed— <i>Soliva sessilis</i>	A	S												
Wartcress— <i>Coronopus didymus</i>	A	S												
White clover— <i>Trifolium repens</i>	P	S												
Yarrow— <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	P	S,Rs												

NOVEMBER
DECEMBER

ANNUAL BLUEGRASS

Poa annua L.

Annual; tufted, light green, forms mat when allowed to mature without cutting. Stems are flattened, and leaf blades are short and smooth. Seeds continue to form even under extremely close mowing. May root at the lower nodes. Usually found in cool, frequently watered area.



BARNYARDGRASS

Echinochloa crusgalli
(L.) Beauv.

Annual; stout stems, branching at base, forms mat or clumps when mowed. Leaves are smooth with prominent midrib. Seed heads are panicles, and seeds are about the size of millet (birdseed). Normally found in poorly managed turf of low fertility. Commonly called "watergrass."



BENTGRASS

Agrostis spp.

Perennial; fine-bladed, spread by seed and stolons. Roots easily and forms stems at every node. Develops dense sod patches, normally much finer than other turf. Commonly used as a turfgrass.



BERMUDAGRASS

Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers

Perennial; with rhizomes and stolons. Stolons (runners) are many-jointed and root at the nodes. Stems are smooth and wiry. Fine leaves are pointed at the end, and have a conspicuous tuft of hair at the base. Does not grow well in shade. Seed heads resemble those of crabgrass. Commonly used as a turfgrass in southern and central California. Details: Middle: shoot leaf base, with sparse hairs. Bottom: seed head, showing single point of origin.



NARROWLEAF WEEDS

LARGE CRABGRASS
(HAIRY CRABGRASS)

Digitaria sanguinalis
(L.) Scop.

Annual; spread by seed, and to a minor extent by rooting from lower swollen nodes of stems. Has low-bunching leafy grass with leaves that are larger and hairier than those of smooth crabgrass. Light green to yellowish green in color. Often heavy in over-watered turf.



SMOOTH CRABGRASS

Digitaria ischaemum
(Schreb.) Muhl.

Annual; similar to hairy crabgrass, except that the leaves and leaf sheaths are smooth. Leaves are longer and narrower than those of hairy crabgrass. (Shown here in dichondra.)



DALLISGRASS

Paspalum dilatatum Poir.

Perennial; bunch-type growth, leafy at the base. Rhizomes are very closely jointed, appearing almost scaly. Seed heads are sparsely branched on long stems. Detail: seed head and circular, flat seeds.





GERMAN VELVETGRASS

Holcus mollis L.

Perennial; vigorous, slender rhizomes. Leaves are velvety, somewhat grayish. Purplish lines at base of stems are common. Visible as light velvety clumps in turf. Detail: leaf base with many short, fine hairs on leaves and leaf sheath.



GOOSEGRASS

Eleusine indica
(L.) Gaertn.

Annual; low rosette, mat-forming, stems compressed. Appears as silvery, pale green clump. Flower stalks are short, stout, and compressed. Seed heads are similar to those of dallisgrass, but short and stiff. Normally found in compacted areas or areas of heavy wear. Produces seed even under close mowing.



ITALIAN RYEGRASS

Lolium multiflorum Lam.

Annual or short-lived perennial; robust plant with long, narrow, glossy leaf. Spikes are long, with spikelets attached on alternate sides. Recognizable in lawns by its glossy appearance; forms clumps. Often used in inexpensive lawn seed mixtures.

KIKUYUGRASS

Pennisetum clandestinum
Hochst.

Perennial; vigorous, thick rhizomes and stolons. Seeding is very sparse, inconspicuous. Mowing stimulates seed production. Leaves are pointed on the ends—similar to Bermudagrass, except coarser. Wiry, it is often mistaken for St. Augustinegrass. Found in south and central coast. Detail: leaf base with hairs on leaves and leaf sheath.



ST. AUGUSTINEGRASS

Stenotaphrum secundatum
(Walt.) Kuntze

Creeping perennial; thick, flattened stolons, spreading leaves have boat-shaped tips. Leaves and stems are smooth and hairless. Flower shoots are 4 to 12 inches tall. Sometimes used as a turfgrass.



TALL FESCUE

Festuca arundinacea
Schreb.

Perennial; forms clumps with upright leaves. Leaf blades are wide, coarse with rasplike margins, and radiate from a central clump. Flower stalks lie flat during mowing, resulting in ragged-looking turf. Used for turf in playgrounds and parks. Meadow fescue (*Festuca elatior* L.) has similar clumping characteristics; it is included in some seed mixtures.



**WILD BARLEY
(COMMON FOXTAIL)**

Hordeum leporinum Link.

Annual; occurs as clumps, principally in newly seeded turf. The leaves are smooth, dull green. Seed heads are squirrel- or foxtail-shaped, and often remain after mowing.



YELLOW FOXTAIL

Setaria glauca (L.) Beauv.

Summer annual; erect, 1- to 2-foot stems. Leaves are flat, some with a spiral twist, and with long hairs on the upper surface near the base. Spikes are dense and erect; spikelets have five or more slender bristles. Found in turf, cultivated fields, and roadsides. Detail: seed head with bristles and seeds.



YELLOW NUTSEDGE

Cyperus esculentus L.

Perennial; spreading by seeds and tubers. Looks like grass, but with triangular stems. Nutsedge also has three tiers of leaves, whereas grasses have two tiers. Leaves are shiny, dark green, stiff, and upright. Grows faster than turfgrasses. Underground tubers form from the scaly rhizomes. Nutlets have almond taste.



BROADLEAF WEEDS

BIRDSEYE PEARLWORT

Sagina procumbens L.

Perennial; stems prostrate, forms mat, rooting at nodes. Commonly found in coastal areas. Looks like moss.



BIRDSEYE SPEEDWELL
(BYZANTINE
SPEEDWELL)

Veronica persica Poir.

Annual; stems 4 to 16 inches tall, leaves roundish or oval. Has small, deep blue flowers with white center on stalks $\frac{3}{8}$ to 1 inch long. Plant is covered with hairs.



BLACK MEDIC

Medicago lupulina L.

Annual or sometimes perennial; four-angled stems are hairy and branch at the base. Branches are prostrate and spreading. Flowers are small and yellow, in long, dense heads. Detail: leaflets and flower head with small yellow flowers.



BRISTLY MALLOW

Modiola caroliniana
(L.) G. Don.

Low perennial; spreading stems 6 to 18 inches long. Leaves are round with coarse-cut margins 1 to 1½ inches across. May look similar to cutleaf geranium. Flowers are dull red, round, and less than ½ inch wide in summer. Found throughout most of California. Detail: flower and leaf.



BRISTLY OXTONGUE

Picris echioides L.

Coarse, rough biennial; 4 to 6 inches tall in turf. Leaves are 2 to 6 inches long, ½ to 1½ inches wide, rough and hairy on upper and lower surfaces. Flower heads are yellow, about ½ inch broad, and occur in clusters near the top of the stem. Flowers appear from June to December. Detail: bristly leaf surface.



BROADLEAF PLANTAIN

Plantago major L.

Perennial; leaves are large, 3 to 6 inches long, and smooth. Conspicuous flower stalks 3 to 6 inches long. Roots are fibrous and shallow. May be distinguished from buckhorn plantain by the broader leaf and shorter flower stalks.



BUCKHORN PLANTAIN

Plantago lanceolata L.

Perennial; long, narrow leaves with parallel veins, 3 to 12 inches long, slightly hairy, with brownish hairs surrounding the leaf base. Growth habit resembles that of broadleaf plantain. Seed stalks are much longer than leaves.



CALIFORNIA BURCLOVER

Medicago polymorpha L.

Annual; smooth prostrate stems. Leaflets have whitish and red spots scattered over the surface when young. Small flowers are yellow. Seed pod of "bur" is twisted spirally with spiny protrusions. Stipules at the base of leaflets are deeply divided.



CHICKWEED

Stellaria media (L.) Vill.

Annual; slender, many-branched stems with line of white hairs along one side. Leaves are smooth and pointed. Grows in cool weather or, in winter, in sheltered areas. Detail: flowers and pointed leaves.



COMMON PURSLANE

Portulaca oleracea L.

Annual; prostrate, fleshy stems, flowers are pale yellow. Leaves are fleshy and succulent.



CREEPING SPURGE

Chamaesyce serpens
H. B. K. (Small)

Perennial; smooth, prostrate, spreading and rooting from the nodes. Leaves are almost round, reaching 1/4 inch in length. Light green color, with no spots. Small maroon glands are often mistaken for seed pods. Often found at turf edge or in open ground in central valleys and southern California. Detail: stems, leaves, flowers, and seed pods.



CREEPING
WOODSORRELL
(YELLOW OXALIS)

Oxalis corniculata L.

Perennial; with running root-stocks. Prefers shade. Leaves resemble those of clover, green or reddish color with sour taste. Flowers are small and yellow. Detail: purple leaf form with small yellow flower.



CUDWEED
(COTTON BATTING
PLANT)

Gnaphalium chilense
Spreng.

Annual or biennial; white, silk-hairy plant with long, narrow leaves with round tips at base and more pointed tips at the top of the plant. Small inconspicuous flowers appear in clusters.



CURLY DOCK

Rumex crispus L.

Perennial; growing from a large, brownish taproot. Normally found as a rosette in turf, but will grow to 2 or 3 feet. Leaves are large, reddish green in color, curly, and wavy along the margins.



CUTLEAF GERANIUM

Geranium dissectum L.

Annual; freely branched, remains prostrate in turf. Leaves are dissected into narrow leaf divisions. Small, purple flowers are conspicuous.



DANDELION

Taraxacum officinale
Weber

Perennial; stemless leaves at base. Flower stalks arise from the base. Has conspicuous yellow flowers. At maturity, flower becomes a white fluffy ball of a seed head. The plant grows from a single brownish taproot.



DICHONDRA

Dichondra micrantha Urb.

Perennial; low, creeping habit, roots freely at nodes, and forms dense mat. Leaves are kidney-shaped and from 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches wide. Flowers are inconspicuous.



ENGLISH DAISY

Bellis perennis L.

Perennial; low-growing, with oval basal leaves. Has prominent upright flower stalks throughout season with showy white or pinkish daisylike flowers.



FIELD BINDWEED

Convolvulus arvensis L.

Perennial; deep-rooted, with prostrate or twining stems and arrow-shaped leaves. Flowers are white or pink and conspicuous. Plant can take many forms and shapes.



FIELD MADDER

Sherardia arvensis L.

Annual; slender, square, hairy stems, low-growing, forms mat. Leaves grow in whorls and have a strong odor. Flowers are small and blue or pinkish in clumps at ends of the stems. Detail: stems, leaves, and flowers.





**HEALALL
(SELFHEAL)**

Prunella vulgaris L.

Perennial; gray, hairy or smooth green plant, with spreading rootstocks. It is usually found in patches. There is also a silvery, hairy form. Detail: flower head.



HENBIT

Lamium amplexicaule L.

Annual; several upright four-angled stems, rooting at lower nodes. Rounded, coarsely toothed leaves are whorled up the stem. Has an irregular purple flower. The lower lips of the flower are spotted. A difficult weed to control.



**LITTLE MALLOW
(CHEESEWEED)**

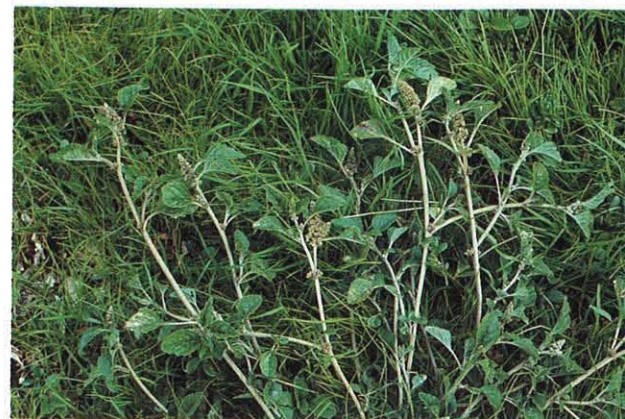
Malva parviflora L.

Annual or very often a biennial; stems somewhat low spreading. Leaves are roundish and broad, with a red spot at base of the blade. Normally found in poorly managed or new turf.

LOW AMARANTH

Amaranthus deflexus L.

Annual; low, prostrate, with the end of the stem turning upward. Stems are 12 to 18 inches long. Leaves are short-petioled, oval, $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 inch long and about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch broad. Flowers are inconspicuous, cluster densely at the stem ends, and appear from May to November. Another pigweed, prostrate pigweed, is very similar, except that it forms a small, dense mat.



MOUSEEAR
CHICKWEED

Cerastium vulgatum L.

Perennial; prostrate, forms dense patches, sticky-hairy stems and leaves, leaves rounded on end. Flowers are small, white, and inconspicuous. Detail: hairy leaves and small, white flower.



PENNYWORT

Hydrocotyle umbellata L.

Perennial; creeping, rooting at nodes of slender rootstocks. A troublesome weed in southern California. Round leaves are approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter with wavy margins that distinguish it from dichondra.





PROSTRATE KNOTWEED

Polygonum aviculare L.

Annual; prostrate, forms circular mats, found in hard-worn turf areas of high traffic. The slender, wiry stems do not root at the nodes. Leaves are bluish green and smooth, without the purple spotting found on spotted spurge. Flowers are white and inconspicuous. Detail: stems, leaves, and flowers.



RED SORREL (SHEEP SORREL)

Rumex acetosella L.

Perennial; similar to curly dock, arrow-shaped leaves. Root is a slender running rootstock, reddish in color.



SCARLET PIMPERNEL

Anagallis arvensis L.

Annual; low-growing, branched, with four-angled stems. Leaves are opposite or in whorls of three. Flowers are salmon-colored, about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ inch in diameter, and open only under a clear sky.

SOUTHERN
BRASSBUTTONS
(AUSTRALIAN
BRASSBUTTONS)

Cotula australis (Sieber)
Hook. f.

Annual; strong-scented, low-growing. Resembles *Soliva* or wartcress. The flowers are small and yellow, and the leaves are deeply toothed and covered with fine hairs.



SPOTTED CATSEAR
(HAIRY CATSEAR)

Hypochoeris radicata L.

Perennial; thick, fleshy taproot, normally found as a rosette in turf. Leaves are lobed or sawtoothed, with coarse yellow hairs on upper and lower surfaces. Flowers are yellow, and each stem may have several.



SPOTTED SPURGE

Euphorbia maculata L.

Annual; prostrate, stems form circular mat from a single taproot, nonrooting at the nodes, aggressive. Milky sap in leaves, which may be green or reddish, but are easily identified by the red spot on the upper center of the leaflet.



SPURWEED

Soliva sessilis R. & P.

Annual; small, with dissected leaves. Foliage is covered with fine hairs. Seed, when formed, appears in a small, three-spined bur that you can feel readily when you press a clump with your hand. Detail: inconspicuous flower head in the leaf axil with small spines.



WARTCRESS

Coronopus didymus (L.) Sm.

Annual; low-growing, stong-smelling, closely resembles *Soliva*. Seeds are borne in two-lobed, wrinkled pods. Detail: leaves, flowers, and seed pods.



BROADLEAF WEEDS

WHITE CLOVER

Trifolium repens L.

Perennial; low-growing, rooting at the nodes. Has white, sometimes pinkish flowers, trifoliate leaf with distinctive white mark.

Detail: leaflets with white, crescent-shaped mark.



WHITESTEM FILAREE

Erodium moschatum
(L.) L'Her.

Annual; leaves form a low rosette. Stems are generally whitish. Leaves are up to 10 inches long, with several toothed leaflets. Flowers are small, bluish purple. Seed pods form a stork's bill. Detail: leaf, flower, and seed pods.



YARROW

Achillea millefolium L.

Perennial; hairy, with spreading rootstocks. Leaves are something like a carrot's. Flowers are white or yellow in dense, flat clusters at stem ends. Flowers are not normally found in turf.

