



Bermuda Grass

O & T Guide W-2

Frank Sholedice, Research Associate &
Mark Renz, Extension Weed Scientist



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Bermuda grass, *Cynodon dactylon*, is a perennial grass that is sometimes planted as turf, but because of its creeping growth pattern it can become weedy if it escapes cultivation. It has numerous branched, creeping stems that are flattened in cross-section, produces seed on long, slender branches, and has small, purple flowers. Bermuda grass is also known as common quickgrass, couch grass, devil's grass, and dog's tooth grass.

The stems are often spreading (sometimes erect), branched, slightly flattened in cross-section, and usually grow 4-6 in. tall, though some plants may reach 18 in. tall. The stems are often rooted at the nodes, creating the spreading growth pattern. The leaves grow to about 2.5 in. long by 0.03-0.25 in. wide, are green to dark green, may be flat or folded (rolled when budding), and have a pointed tip. The base of each leaf forms a sheath that extends down the stem; sheaths and leaf bases are often covered with soft, long hairs.

Bermuda grass produces seed on long, slender branches that are found at the stem ends. Each stem produces about 3-8 branches that all emerge from the same point at the stem end in a whorled pattern; each branch is 1.0-2.5 in. long. The seeds are about 0.08 in. long and grow in two overlapping rows on only one side of each branch. One flower is found next to each seed when flowering; flowers are slightly smaller than seeds, purple, and bushy.

The plant produces an extensive system of creeping rhizomes and stolons that often have a scaly appearance. It also produces fibrous roots at the stem nodes. Bermuda grass reproduces through seed and vegetatively through rhizomes and stolons.





Management:

- Physical removal must remove as much of the root/rhizome system as possible
- Herbicides are effective at suppressing this plant