

Bermudagrass Fact Sheet

Cynodon dactylon

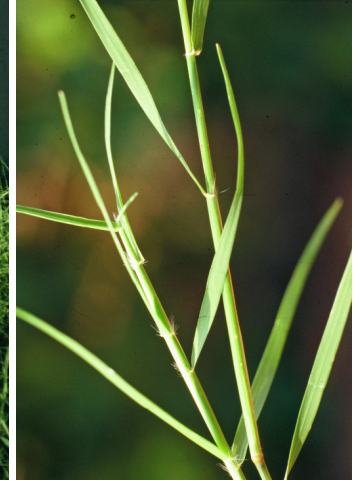
Poaceae Family



USDA Plants Database, USDA NRCS Plants Database, bugwood.org



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, bugwood.org



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Distinguishing Features:

- ❶ **Flowers:** The seed head resembles a hand with 3 to 7 “fingers” or spikelets, which are about 1 to 2 inches long.
- ❷ **Seeds:** Seeds can survive up to 3-4 years.
- ❸ **Leaves:** The leaf blades are arranged in a herringbone pattern.
- ❹ **Flowering Time:** The seed spike grows from 3 to 8 inches long and appears in July.
- ❺ **Life cycle:** Bermudagrass is a low growing warm season grass that spreads by rhizomes, stolons, and seeds.

Impacts:

- In Utah cool season turfgrass lawns, Bermudagrass is an aggressive weed that is difficult to control.
- Although a Utah noxious weed, Bermudagrass is grown as a durable turf surface in warm temperate regions worldwide.
- Bermuda grass can sometimes be confused with annual crabgrass, but has a much deeper, rhizome root system, whereas crabgrass has a fibrous root system without any rhizomes.

Control:

- A good healthy lawn will outcompete Bermudagrass and reduce the likelihood of its establishment.
- Chemical applications can yield good results if repeated and used with other methods of control. Products containing Triclopyr suppress Bermudagrass only and must be repeated, possibly for several years.
- The best time to treat Bermudagrass is when it is actively growing. In Northern Utah this usually occurs between late May and early September. Treating when the grass is dormant or inactive is usually ineffective.



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, bugwood.org



Salt Lake County Weed
Control Program
www.weeds.slco.org
385-468-6101
weeds@slco.org