

Bermudagrass Fact Sheet

Cynodon dactylon

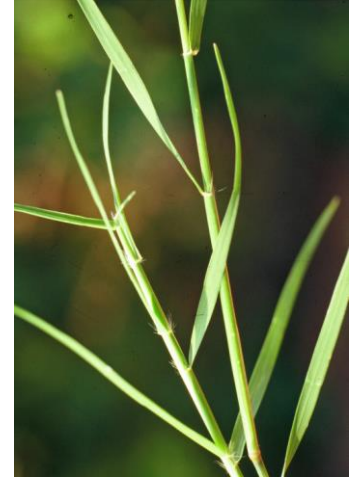
Poaceae Family



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



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, bugwood.org



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, bugwood.org

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.
- Bermudagrass can sometimes be confused with annual crabgrass, but has a 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.
- Since it requires high light intensity to thrive, shading with mats, plastic, or a thick layer of mulch can be used as a control method.
- The best time to treat Bermudagrass is when it is actively growing. In Northern Utah this usually occurs between late May and early September.



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, bugwood.org

*Please visit our website for references sourcing this information.



Salt Lake County Weed Control Program
www.slco.org/weeds/
385-468-4035
noxiousweeds@slco.org