

Quackgrass Fact Sheet

Elytrigia repens

Poaceae Family



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



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Distinguishing Features:

- ❶ **Flowers:** The seed head grows to about 3 to 8 inches long and appear in July.
- ❷ **Seeds:** Spreads both by seed and rhizomes.
- ❸ **Leaves:** The leaf blades are up to a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide. Near the tip, the leaves have a band-like constriction.
- ❹ **Flowering Time:** June to August.
- ❺ **Life cycle:** Quackgrass is a 1-3 foot tall rhizomatous perennial that spreads by rhizomes and seeds. The Rhizomes are creamy white to yellowish colored and pointed.

Impacts:

- Quackgrass is a highly competitive agricultural weed. It can significantly reduce crop yields, and seed contamination of seed grain crops reduces the value of the harvest.

Control:

- A good healthy lawn will outcompete Quackgrass and reduce the likelihood of its establishment. One approach to do this is to increase nitrogen fertilizer and mowing.
- Chemical applications can yield good results if repeated and used with reseeding. Products containing glyphosate are effective but must be repeated.
- Because Quackgrass is a rhizomatous plant, mechanical controls that sever rhizomes usually result in an increase in new plants. An aggressive rhizome system will spread into adjacent areas. Under good conditions, a small patch of Quackgrass can increase 6 feet in diameter during one growing season.



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