

Residents are asking about Types of Grass

I have received a lot of questions about lawns this year. The most common question has been “What kind of grass is this?” Most of the time, the grass that is in question is annual bluegrass. I have not seen a lot of this grass in North Dakota because we are generally dry. In other parts of the United States it is one of the most common weeds in turf. This grass is a coarse grass that grows in bunches. The leaves are shaped like the bow of a boat. Some people confuse this grass with crab grass. It does have thick leaves like crab grass, but it does not have the same flower on it. It likes cooler weather and more water than crab grass.

This grass is very prolific and can spread rapidly. Each plant can produce 100 seed in as few as two months. Viable seed can be produced in just a few days after pollination. Seeds can be spread by mowing, birds, foot traffic and cultivation. It grows faster than our Kentucky bluegrass and can make a lawn look uneven in a short time. Control of this weed can be difficult but not impossible.

New infestations can be controlled by cleaning the lawn mower. If you find this grass in your yard you can pull it out (shallow roots). The best defense against this weed is to have a healthy and thick lawn. Bare areas in the yard are an invitation to this weed to become established. Removal of grass clippings helps to get rid of the seed. In North Dakota there is no chemical used by the homeowner that can be used to kill this grass in a lawn. Professional sprayers can use a pesticide to kill it out.

Do not over water your lawn. I know that this year has been very wet. So have the last couple of years. Not much that you can do when it is raining all of the time. Do not water your lawn until the grass is stressed. When you do water, make sure that it is infrequent and a deep watering. An example of this type of watering would be maybe an inch of water once a week.

I have had a lot of grasses that are weeds come across my desk this year. With the weather that we have had, this has been a great year for weeds. Did you know that some weed seeds can remain viable in the ground for about 50 years?

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