Creage, Quackgrass, Windmill grass become naturalized throughout cool-season grass that has repens. It becomes difficult to mow. Very flat on the ground, making it also dislike the fine-bladed texture green up in the spring and early tall fescue because of its delayed. Inferior growth pattern, which grow larger each year. In shady areas or in areas that receive grow larger each year.

Control of Perennial Weedy Grasses

Nimblewill, muhlenbergia scribes, is a native, warm season, weedy grass that is a frequent turf invader. Nimblewill is a thin, wiry, pale green grass. The seed heads are short and emerge at 45 degrees angles from the stems, which are slender, smooth and tend to lie flat on the ground. It spreads by short stolons, or above ground stems, that root at the nodes. Nimblewill forms circular patches as a result of its stoloniferous growth pattern, which grow larger each year.

It grows best during the warmest summer months and can often be found in damp, shady areas or in areas that receive only a partial day of full sun. It is objectionable in cool season lawns. Nimblewill is a buntergrass and tall fescue because of its delayed green up in the spring and early fall. Dormant in many areas, it often grows faster than other bunt grasses. Many growers also dislike the fine-bladed texture of nimblewill and its habit to lie very flat on the ground, making it difficult to mow. Quackgrass, elymus repens, is a European native, cool-season grass that become naturalized throughout Nebraska. It prefers to grow in moist areas of the lawn, but can survive well in dry areas once established, becoming a serious invasive weed. It spreads through an aggressive rhizomatous root system, choking out more desirable grasses. The leaf blades are flat and thin, with few hairs, and no noticeable ridges or folds. Windmill grass, Chloris verticillata, is a native, warm-season bunchgrass. It is found throughout Nebraska, but is most common in eastern and southern parts of the state. It grows in all types of soil, and is common in lawns. As a warm-season grass it grows high in late spring, and grows and seeds quickly during the summer from May through September. As a bunchgrass, it spreads primarily through seeds. Plants have coarse, light green leaves and produce seedheads at a short height, becomingunosightly in a mowed lawn. The seedheads consist of 6–20 spike-like branches attached to a central axis, which resemble small tawleweeds and can roll across the lawn in fall dispersing seeds.

Control

Nimblewill and windmill grass can be controlled selectively with the herbicide Tenacity (mesotrione). Several applications, usually at least 3, should be made on 3–4 week intervals for the best control. Susceptible grasses will turn white following the application, as chlorophyll in their leaves breaks down. Tenacity is labeled for use on Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, fine fescue, perennial ryegrass and buffalo grass. It should not be used on zoysia grass unless damage or grass death can be tolerated. Tenacity can be applied by commercial pesticide applicators or purchased online by homeowners. Quackgrass is more difficult to control since there are no herbicides to selectively kill it without damaging the lawn. Also, pulling or digging is often unsuccessful since only a small portion of rhizome remaining in the soil is needed to generate a new plant. So the best way to control quackgrass is to spot treat the weed-infested areas with glyphosate (Roundup, Kleenup, etc.). Glyphosate is a systemic, non-selective herbicide. Glyphosate is absorbed through the foliage and is then translocated to all plant parts. It kills nearly all plants that are directly sprayed. Visible symptoms usually develop in 7–10 days of the application. Death occurs in 2–4 weeks. Always read and follow all label directions when using any pesticide.

Efforts to control undesirable perennial grasses in the lawn should begin in mid-summer. This allows adequate time to kill the weedy grasses, then prepare the areas for seeding or sodding in late summer. Complete destruction of the weeds is necessary to prevent their reappearance. If the treated areas are not dead in 2–4 weeks, a second application is necessary. Areas treated with glyphosate can be seeded or sodded 7 days after application.

If you plan to sow seed, it’s not necessary to dig up the destroyed areas. Vigorously rake these areas with a stiff tined garden rake to remove some of the dead debris and to break the soil surface. After seeding, work the seed and the fine soil over the tilled areas. The best time to seed bare spots is mid-August through September. If you plan to sod, remove the dead debris before laying the sod. The establishment of a thick, healthy lawn and its proper maintenance will help prevent future weed infestations.