

# Midwest Fact Sheet

## Controlling Rough Bluegrass in Lawns and Sports Turf

Roughstalk bluegrass (*Poa trivialis*) has become a problem on athletic fields and home lawns. Roughstalk bluegrass is lighter, metallic green compared to Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass. Once the warm summer weather hits, roughstalk bluegrass begins to thin and is attacked by dollar spot and eventually goes dormant. Summer thinning is almost unavoidable even with additional irrigation. Two promising selective herbicides for control of roughstalk bluegrass are Velocity (bispyribac-sodium) and Certainty (sulfosulfuron). Velocity is effective in creeping bentgrass, but is not safe on Kentucky bluegrass and is not labeled for home lawns or athletic fields. Certainty can be used on athletic fields and home lawns. Certainty is safe to use on Kentucky bluegrass, but may cause temporary discoloration or thinning on perennial ryegrass and tall fescue depending on the rates used. In order to suppress roughstalk bluegrass, use one to three applications of Certainty on a two week interval at 0.25 to 0.50 oz/acre. Use a non-ionic surfactant at 0.25% volume/volume and make applications during the summer when daytime temperatures exceed 70° F. In areas with substantial populations of roughstalk bluegrass, bare areas of turf may occur after herbicide applications. Our work shows seeding back into the bare areas at least two to three weeks after the final application of Certainty should be safe on the seedlings. A slower approach may be required to gradually reduce roughstalk bluegrass populations. Regular overseeding throughout the year with Kentucky bluegrass, combined with multiple applications of Certainty at lower rates during the summer should work.

Deb Morton, Graduate Research Assistant, Agronomy Department, Purdue University



Rough bluegrass on the left versus Kentucky bluegrass on the right. Rough bluegrass is a lighter, more metallic green and tends to mat down in mid-summer

Learn more about controlling rough bluegrass and many other weeds at our Field Day on July 17, registration information is available at [www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/](http://www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/).

# Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Calendar of Events

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## 2007

- June 1            2007-08 MRTF Member Renewal  
July 17           Turf Field Day,  
*Daniel Center, West Lafayette*
- October 11       **Golf Day,**  
*Coyote Crossing, West Lafayette*
- November 14-15 **Turf & Ornamental Seminar,**  
*Daniel Center, West Lafayette*
- December 10    **Basic Training, Fort Wayne**  
December 18    **Basic Training, Indianapolis**

## 2008

- January 14-16   **Indiana Green Expo,**  
*Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis*
- January 22       **Basic Training, Evansville**
- February 11-14   **IN-IL Short Course, Location TBD**  
February 25-28   **IN-IL Short Course, Willowbrook, IL**

<b><i>Reminder:</i></b>	<u>Preregistration deadline:</u>
<b>Turf Field Day</b>	June 29, 2007
<b>July 17, 2007</b>	See registration information at
<b>Daniel Center</b>	<a href="http://www.agry.purdue.edu/turf">www.agry.purdue.edu/turf</a> or
<b>West Lafayette, IN</b>	call Jennifer at (765)494-8039

*Purdue University and the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation  
are equal access/opportunity*

*Midwest Regional Turf Foundation  
PO Box 2285  
West Lafayette, IN 47996-2285*

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