

Crabgrasses - Large (*Digitaria sanguinalis*) and Smooth (*Digitaria ischaemum*)



Figure 1 Smooth crabgrass



Figure 2 Large crabgrass

Identification

Large crabgrass and smooth crabgrass are summer annuals. They are native to Europe. Seedlings resemble small corn plants, leaves are flat, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or more wide with a prominent mid-rib. Crabgrass spreads by stolons or runners and produces seed heads throughout the growing season. Smooth crabgrass has a prostrate growing habit up to 6 inches high, leaf color ranges from green to bluish, reds and purples. Large crabgrass is more erect and grows up to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' in height and has coarse hairs where the leaves and stems meet.

Control Methods

In a vegetable garden, regular weeding and hoeing are effective methods to control and even eliminate crabgrass. When digging, remove all runners which can be very long but not necessarily deep.

Additional Information/Resources

- [Weeds of Nebraska and the Great Plains](#), Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- University of Wisconsin Extension Weed Science [website](#)
- Garden Counselor Lawn Care [Crabgrass](#)
- Dane County UW Extension Horticulture Hotline [608-224-3721](tel:608-224-3721) (M-F, 9 am-12 noon, April 15 – October 31) or horticulture@countyofdane.com