

Quack Grass (*Elymus repens*)



Figure 1. Close up of early quackgrass

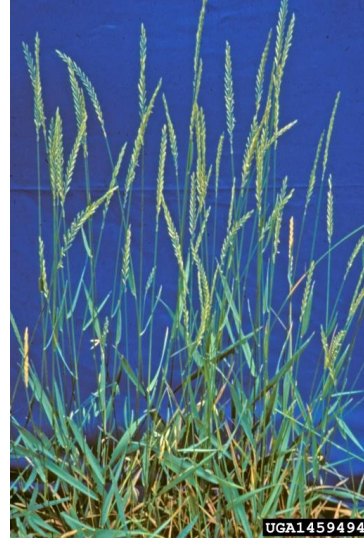


Figure 2. Quackgrass seed heads

Quack grass is a perennial weed that spreads underground by rhizomes. Quackgrass is classified as a DNR not restricted invasive.

Identification

Quackgrass has thin, flat bright green leaf blades and grows to an unmowed height of 1 to 4 feet with a seed spike of 3 to 8 inches long appearing in July. The rhizomes (underground stems) are yellow to white, 1/8" in diameter with distinct nodes very inch or so.

Control Methods

Newly germinated plants form rhizomes in 2 to 3 months so it is important to remove the plant before rhizomes form. Once rhizomes form, the grass blades may be shallowly cut and mulched to prevent photosynthesis or dug out completely. Deep hoeing cuts the rhizomes into multiple pieces each of which can form a new plant.

Additional Information/Resources

- University of Minnesota Extension [Controlling quackgrass in gardens](#)
- 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