

Crabgrass vs. Quackgrass

These two weedy grasses with coarse leaves are often confused.



Quackgrass is a perennial grass that has extensive underground whitish rhizomes (underground stems) from which new plants can arise. New, upright leaves appear early in the spring.

This plant is difficult to control by weeding; chemical herbicides are most effective.

Crabgrass is a low-growing, warm season annual grass that germinates about the time common lilac is in the early bloom stage, sets seed in late summer, and dies with the first frost. It often forms patches in lawns, with plants growing together to form large clumps. The best defense is a thick, vigorously growing lawn, but it is easy to control in both lawns and ornamental beds with preemergent herbicides (applied before it germinates) or can be removed by hand.



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Additional Resources

Crabgrass & Quackgrass

- UW-Extension Publication A1990, *Lawn Weed Prevention and Control*, at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Lawn-Weed-Prevention-and-Control-P443.aspx>
- UW-Extension Publication A1827, *Identifying Grasses in Wisconsin Turf*, at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Identifying-Grasses-in-Wisconsin-Turf-P431.aspx>
- UW-Extension Publication A3924-28, *Quackgrass*, at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Quackgrass-P1673.aspx>

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