

WEED REFERENCE

Kikuyugrass, *Pennisetum clandestinum*

DESCRIPTION:

Kikuyugrass is a very aggressive perennial grass that spreads rapidly via vigorous rhizomes and stolons. Kikuyugrass thrives in mild climates (Mediterranean climates) and often takes over golf course fairways and is sometimes grown as a desirable turfgrass species. Kikuyugrass is a major weed of golf courses in California and is not found on the east coast. Kikuyugrass prefers climates with low humidity. Under humid conditions, kikuyugrass often suffers from various diseases.



Type of plant:	grass
Life cycle:	perennial
Growth habit:	spreading
Aggressiveness (1-10 scale; 10=most aggressive):	10
Leaf color:	Dark green
Flower description:	Flowers not distinguishable with the naked eye
Seed description:	Small and tan in color
Reproduces by:	Seed, rhizomes, stolons
U.S. states found in:	CA, HI
Countries found in:	Mexico, South and Central America, Zustralia, New Zealand, Africa, Asia, various Pacific Islands
Golf course areas found in:	Greens, tees, fairways, roughs, low maintenance areas

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES:

Always check labels to determine turfgrass sensitivity to herbicides.

Follow resistance management guidelines by rotating products as outlined in IPM Template Reference "Herbicide Resistance Management Groups." Always consult the most recent version of all product labels before use.

TYPE	TIMING/ THRESHOLD	PRACTICE	
Cultural	N/A	Encourage healthy turf	
Biological			
Chemical	Post emerge: In tolerant turf species only. Repeat applications are necessary.	Active ingredient (example)	Label signal word
		MSMA (MSMA) plus triclopyr (Turflon)	Caution/Caution
		Quinclorac (Drive)	Caution
