

WEED REFERENCE

Virginia buttonweed, *Diodia virginiana*

DESCRIPTION:

Virginia buttonweed is a perennial with prostrate or spreading branches that thrives in wet areas of the golf course. The stems are longitudinally ridged with hairs along the ridges. Leaves are opposite without petioles and rough along the margins. The leaves are slightly thickened, green on the upper surface and light green on the lower surface with both surfaces smooth and slightly folded. The leaves of Virginia buttonweed often take on a mottled-yellow mosaic look. The white flowers sometimes have pink streaks in the center and are borne in the leaf axil. Petals are united into a tube. The fruit, bearing four membranous sepals at the tip, is produced in leaf axils.



Type of plant:	broadleaf
Life cycle:	perennial
Growth habit:	spreading
Aggressiveness (1-10 scale; 10=most aggressive):	9
Leaf attachment:	opposite
Leaf color:	Dark green, variegated
Flower description:	Small white flowers have 4 petals
Seed description:	Dark brown seeds are slightly round to oblong in shape
Reproduces by:	Seed, rootstock, stem fragments
U.S. states found in:	NJ, south to FL and west to MO
Countries found in:	No known occurrence in other countries
Golf course areas found in:	Tees, fairways, roughs, low maintenance areas

MONITORING

Start scouting when average air temperatures reach 55 F (13 C)

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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	Manage moisture to avoid overly wet areas. Encourage growth of healthy turf	
Biological			
Chemical	Post-emergence: repeat applications to target re-growth every 4 -5 weeks. A full year of applications may be necessary for full control.	Active ingredient (example)	Label signal word
		2,4-D (Barrage)	Caution
		Dicamba (Banvel): use in combination with 2,4-D	Caution or Warning, depending on formulation
		Triclopyr (Turflon): use in combination with 2,4-D	Caution