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## Annual Bluegrass

Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and rough bluegrass (*Poa trivialis*) are common weeds on golf courses, but are now becoming a problem on higher mowed turf areas such as lawns and athletic fields. Both of these grasses are considered weeds because they are lighter colored with a “softer” texture than Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass. Plus they both tend to go dormant during the heat and drought of summer. Annual bluegrass has very shallow roots and can become drought stressed even in well irrigated lawns.



Homeowners are often unaware that annual bluegrass is in their lawn until the hot weather causes it to turn brown. The picture to the right is an example of what annual bluegrass looks like when it is stressed. The picture shows the “patchiness” of annual bluegrass and how it can be mixed in with other turf that is green and well nourished.



### So...what are my options?

Unfortunately, there are only three options, none of which are very good.

1. The easiest option is to live with annual bluegrass and do what you can to help it remain green. This would involve light and frequent irrigation and also plenty of fertilizer.
2. The second option would be to carefully remove the areas of annual bluegrass, put down an inch of top soil, and reseed these areas.
3. The third option would be a total lawn renovation. This would involve killing off the entire lawn, spreading new topsoil, and reseeding ( or hydroseeding). For the last two options, the best time to grow grass from seed is in early fall, from August 15 to September 15.

Remember- Annual bluegrass is a self-seeding grass. Like any weed, the seed can lay dormant for several years. Spot reseeding may hold it back for a while, but sooner or later, it can regeminate and likely out compete the other grasses in your lawn. This is especially true in well irrigated, shady lawns.