

Weed Identification¹

Dr. Phil Busey, CCA, CPAg

Phil Busey Agronomy Consulting Inc.

954-579-3932, phil@philbusey.com

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Ways of identifying weeds

1. practice, practice, practice
2. be curious
3. know the families
4. browse pictures in good reference books and web site
5. keep a pressed, dried collection
6. compare technical characteristics, make accurate descriptions
7. use a key
8. ask an expert specialist
9. quick recognition (gestalt, e.g., perception of the wholeness of form)
10. be skeptical
11. observe in the field under different kinds of conditions
12. identify by process of elimination
13. document using photographs, penline illustrations
14. drill using flash cards (available digitally)

Top 10 lawn and landscape weeds (in order)

crabgrasses
tropical signalgrass
dollarweed
broadflowered pusley
southern sida
bermudagrass
purple nutsedge
bunch sedges
creeping beggarweed
torpedograss

Secondary lawn and landscape weeds

matchweed
Spanish needle
spreading dayflower
green shrimpplant
yellow woodsorrel
cupid's shaving brush
goosegrass
Spermacoce spp.
sandspur
bullgrass

¹ This handout and the Powerpoint presentation are available for download at <http://www.philbusey.com>

Other lawn and landscape weeds

Asiatic hawkweed, chamberbitter, cudweed, doveweed, green kyllinga, heartleaf drymary,
Old World diamondflower, pellitory, smutgrass, white clover

Top weeds of golf and sports turf in South Florida (1998- 2001 survey)

goosegrass, torpedograss, crabgrasses, tropical signalgrass, off-type bermudagrass,
crowfootgrass, green kyllinga, dollarweed, prostrate spurge, annual bluegrass

Suggested web sites

edis.ifas.ufl.edu fleppc.org idweed.com ifasbooks.com
plantatlas.usf.edu plantbook.org/weedbook.pdf www.weedimages.org

Suggested books

- Bryson, C. T. and M. S. DeFelice. 2009. Weeds of the South. University of Georgia Press, Athens.
- Langeland, K. A., H. M. Cherry, C. M. McCormick, and K. A. Craddock Burks. 2008. Identification of nonnative plants in Florida's natural areas. University of Florida / IFAS Communications Services, Gainesville.
- McCarty, L. B. and D. W. Hall. 2011. More turfgrass and related weeds: Beyond the color atlas. Clemson University, Clemson, SC.
- McCarty, L. B., J. W. Everest, D. W. Hall, T. R. Murphy, and F. Yelverton. 2001. Color atlas of turfgrass weeds. Ann Arbor Press, Chelsea, MI.
- Murphy, T. R., D. L. Colvin, R. Dickens, J. W. Everest, D. Hall, and L. B. McCarty. 2007. Weeds of southern turfgrasses. University of Florida IFAS Extension, Gainesville.
- Rogers, G. K. 2013. Native plants, weeds, and sustainable landscapes in South Florida. Palm Beach State College Horticulture Dept., Palm Beach Gardens.
- Wunderlin, R. P. and B. F. Hansen. 2011. Guide to the vascular plants of Florida (3rd ed.) University Press of Florida, Gainesville.