



Trailing indigo



Purple nutsedge



Diamondflower



Pectis (cinchweed)



Southern sida



False buttonweed



Poa annua



Dollarweed



Goosegrass seeds



Goosegrass seedlings



Why identify weeds?

- Weed species tell us how well we are managing sports turf fields
- Consistent primary cultural practices (irrigation, mowing, fertilization) grow the strongest, safest, sports turf with minimal weed activity
- If chemical methods (herbicides) are planned for weed control, only certain products will be effective in controlling certain weeds
- Some weeds are beneficial as nectar sources or have other wildlife benefits
- Some weeds can support sports play when turfgrasses species don't succeed
- Some weeds are invasive exotics that should be removed before they can spread
- Weeds can be poisonous or can be skin irritants or otherwise harmful to people
- Some turfgrasses can also be weeds so we need to be able to identify mixtures of different kinds of turfgrasses
- Your boss or your customers may ask you questions about weeds so having the right name for something shows that you are knowledgeable and can attend to details
- Weeds are interesting and part of life



sfstma.com

Weed Identification Training

South Florida Sports Turf Managers Association at Miami-Dade County Tropical Park

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Kinds of weeds:

Grasses
Sedges
Broadleaf weeds
Others

Families of weeds:

Grass family
Sedge family
Sunflower family
Pea family
Coffee family

Weeds identified by:

Sight recognition
Browsing
Dichotomous key
Technical characteristics

Technical characteristics:

Leaves arranged alternate or opposite
Leaves simple or compound
Pinnately or palmately compound leaves
Bunch-type or spreading
Hairs, spines, tendrils present
Leaf margin smooth or serrate
Leaf tip rounded or pointed
Flower showy or chaffy
Flowers in a specialized head
Fruit a flat pod or berry or winged

Valuable resources:

Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses, \$14.00:

ifasbooks.com

sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/miami-dade/

edis.ifas.ufl.edu

florida.plantatlas.usf.edu

idweed.com

Examples



Crabgrasses — soft, grayish leaves



Green kyllinga (a sedge) — shiny, bur-like



Seashore paspalum — paired racemes



Carpetgrass — wide, flattish leaves



Bull paspalum — bunch type, rounded seeds



Tropical signalgrass — stiff, shiny leaves



Spurges — milky latex



Torpedograss — hairy leaf sheaths



Goosegrass — bunch grass, comb-like top



Crowfootgrass — spreading, comb-like top