

# LOUISIANA HOME LAWN SERIES

A guide to maintaining a healthy Louisiana lawn



## Barnyardgrass

### Description

Barnyardgrass (*Echinochloa crus-galli* [L.] P. Beauv.) is a warm-season annual grassy weed common throughout Louisiana. It can be distinguished by its lack of a ligule, green- to purple-colored seed heads and coarse leaves. It spreads through seed and can be found growing in areas with moist soils and unmaintained turfgrass.



*Barnyardgrass*

### Identification

Barnyardgrass has coarse-textured medium-green leaves. Leaves are rolled in the shoot, smooth and without ligules, and have a distinct white midvein. Short hairs may be seen at the leaf base. Seed heads are arranged in a terminal panicle that may be green to purple in color. Individual spikelets may develop a long terminal awn. Barnyardgrass has an upright growth habit and can grow in thick, dense clumps, which may have red to maroon coloration at the base. For more information on barnyardgrass identification and characterization, visit the USDA Plants Database at <https://plants.usda.gov>.



*Red coloring on leaves and stem*



*Seed head*



*Rough leaf edge*

### Cultural Control Practices

The best way to prevent or reduce weed encroachment is to maintain a healthy lawn through proper fertilization and soil pH management and regular mowing. Properly maintaining a lawn through these cultural practices promotes dense and vigorous turfgrass, allowing it to better compete with weeds. Below are the recommended mowing heights and nitrogen fertility rates recommended for each turfgrass species. In addition to these lawn care practices, manual removal of weeds may also be necessary. Improving drainage will also help reduce the incidence of barnyardgrass infestations in the lawn.

| Turfgrass          | Mowing Height  | Nitrogen Rate (per 1,000 ft <sup>2</sup> per year) |
|--------------------|----------------|--|
| Bermudagrass       | 1 - 2 inches   | Up to 3 pounds                                     |
| Centipedegrass     | 1 - 2.5 inches | Up to 2 pounds                                     |
| St. Augustinegrass | 2.5 - 3 inches | Up to 3 pounds                                     |
| Zoysia             | 1 - 2.5 inches | Up to 2 pounds                                     |

# Chemical Control Practices

In addition to cultural practices, a combination of pre-emergence and post-emergence herbicide applications may be required to achieve effective barnyardgrass control.

When applying any type of herbicide, you must follow the manufacturer's labeled directions. For more information regarding pesticides for turfgrass please reference the Louisiana Suggested Chemical Weed Control Guide at the LSU AgCenter website, [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com).

|   | St. Augustinegrass | Centipedegrass | Zoysia | Bermudagrass |
|---|--------------------|----------------|--------|--------------|
| <b>Postemergence Herbicide Active Ingredients</b> |                    |                |        |              |
| oryzalin  | ✓                  | ✓              | ✓      | ✓            |
| dithiopyr   | ✓                  | ✓              | ✓      | ✓            |
| prodiamine  | ✓                  | ✓              | ✓      | ✓            |
| pendimethalin                                     | ✓                  | ✓              | ✓      | ✓            |
| metolachlor                                       | ✓                  | ✓              | ✓      | ✓            |
| indaziflam  | ✓                  | ✓              | ✓      | ✓            |
| <b>Preemergence Herbicide Active Ingredients</b>  |                    |                |        |              |
| sexthoxydim                                       |                    | ✓              |        |              |
| fenoxaprop  |                    |                | ✓      |              |
| quinclorac  |                    |                | ✓      | ✓            |
| thiencarbazone + iodosulfuron + dicamba           | ✓                  | ✓              | ✓      | ✓            |
| fluzifop  |                    |                | ✓      |              |

For information regarding weed identification and control options please contact your local LSU AgCenter Extension Parish Office. To find your local LSU AgCenter Extension Parish Office visit [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com).

**Authors:**

Jeffrey Beasley, Associate Professor, School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences; Ronald Strahan, Associate Professor, School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences  
 Kayla Sanders, Extension Associate, School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences

Visit our website: [www.LSUAgCenter.com](http://www.LSUAgCenter.com)

Pub. 3624-XXX (Online Only) 12/19

William B. Richardson, LSU Vice President for Agriculture

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, LSU College of Agriculture  
 The LSU AgCenter and LSU provide equal opportunities in programs and employment.