

July 2024 Pest Management Newsletter



Name That Weed!

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This month's weed is a summer annual legume commonly found in turfgrass (Figure 1). Its trifoliate leaflets are oblong and smooth with distinct, pale-colored veins (Figure 2). The stem is pubescent and becomes woody as the plant matures. Single flowers form in leaf axils and range from pink to purple (Figure 3).

As with many turfgrass weeds, maintaining a healthy stand of turfgrass is the best way to prevent this weed from establishing. It can tolerate compacted areas where turfgrass struggles. Turfgrass should be aerated to minimize compaction and promote turf growth. This weed is also commonly associated with low nitrogen, so managing soil fertility is an important cultural control. Proper mowing height (roughly 2 inches for bermudagrass and zoysiagrass) is also a key component in managing not only this weed, but many turfgrass weeds.

Several preemergent herbicides are effective in preventing this weed: dithiopyr (Dimension), atrazine, and simazine (Princep). Metsulfuron, dicamba, 2,4-D, and many combination products containing 2,4-D or dicamba are effective POST control options.

Be the first to send a correct identification to hewright@uada.edu to win a prize!



Figure 1. Photo of mystery weed growing in turfgrass. Photo courtesy of Bugwood.



Figure 2. Stem of mystery weed with leaflets visible. Photo courtesy of Hannah Wright-Smith.



Figure 3. Pink axillary flower of mystery weed. Photo courtesy of Hannah Wright-Smith.