

Quackgrass

Agropyron repens
(*Elymus repens*)

Aggressive, perennial, cool season grass

Distinguished from other grasses by its prominent pale yellow or straw-colored rhizomes with a tough brownish sheath at every joint

Habitat

- Open areas, moderate to high nutrient levels
- Crop fields
- Grazed pasture
- Sod farms
- Old fields/home sites
- Wet prairies
- Riparian corridors

Flowers

- June through August

Seeds

- Wind-pollinated
- Self-sterile
- Average 25-40 per plant
- Viability: 2-4 years

Rhizomes

- Growth initiates in April/May
- New rhizomes form at soil surface
- New rhizomes form apical buds in June/July
- Established rhizomes normally dormant June through August

Growth and reproduction

- Optimum temperatures for growth: 68°-77°
- Temperatures below 35° and above 95° inhibit growth
- Rhizome growth is triggered at 50°, plus 18 hour photoperiod
- Majority of rhizome growth occurs in the top .75"-4" of soil, some as deep as 16"

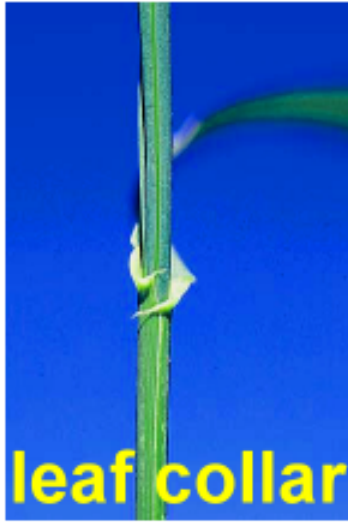
Management

- Tillage in spring @ 2" height for minimum 2 years
- Close mowing or grazing prior to tillage
- Consistent spring burning
- Herbicides: fluazifop, glyphosate, sethoxydim

Threats

- Aggressively competes for light, nutrients and water
- Highly allelopathic, capable of forming monocultures

QUACKGRASS



leaf collar



spikelets



seed head



rhizome growth



mature plants



rhizomes