KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICIAL

QUACKGRASS CONTROL PROGRAM
Revised November 1, 2006

DESCRIPTION

Quackgrass is a perennial, reproducing by seed and underground rhizomes. Rhizomes are pale yellow or straw colored, cord-like about 1/8 inch in diameter and vary from 2 to 18 inches in depth, depending on soil type and treatment. Roots arise only at the nodes. Stems grow up to 3 feet tall with 3 to 6 joints. Leaves are wide, shiny, and dark green in color. The lower dry sheaths, leaves, and stems are distinctly hairy. Upper sheaths glabrous or nearly so. Terminal spikes are 2 to 4 inches long and have 3 to 7 short-awned florets in a spikelet. The seed, with infesting glumes, is elongated toward the slender, short-awned tip, broadest below the middle and tapered to the blunt base.

PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF QUACKGRASS

The occurrence of new infestations of quackgrass can be reduced by planting weed free seed, transplanting nursery stock free of quackgrass rhizomes, using livestock feed materials free of quackgrass seed and cleaning equipment before leaving infested fields. Particular attention should be given to grass seed or grass seed mixtures imported from the northern states.

QUACKGRASS CONTROL PRACTICES

Control of quackgrass shall mean preventing production of viable seed and destroying the plant's ability to reproduce by vegetative means.

CULTURAL CONTROL PRACTICES

Cultivation - Roots and rhizomes are killed by drying on the soil surface. Tillage with a heavy duty springtooth cultivator should be at a depth of 3 to 4 inches. The shovels of such an implement should be operated at a slightly lower depth for each successive cultivation. The first operation should be when growth starts in April. Succeeding cultivations should be made at intervals of about 1 week even though no growth of quackgrass is apparent.

Shallow cultivation or plowing in the late fall will expose rhizomes to freezing and drying during winter and reduces the stand and rapidity of spring growth. Intensive grazing before cultural operations are started is beneficial.

Competitive Crops - to be most effective, should be planted only after the quackgrass has been partially weakened by tillage. Closely drilled stands of sudan-grass or forage sorghum may be used. In gardens, a relatively close spacing of squash or pumpkins is effective.

CHEMICAL CONTROL PRACTICES

The following herbicide may be used for cost-share with landowners. Other products labeled and registered for use on this noxious weed in Kansas may be used in accordance with the label directions but are not available for cost-share.

Be sure to follow all label directions and precautions. For additional information consult the current KSU publication of “Chemical Weed Control for Field Crops, Pastures, Rangeland, and Noncropland”.

Glyphosate (Roundup and others)
Fluazifop-P-butyl (Fusilade)
Diquat + Glyphosate (QuickPro)
Nicosulfuron (Accent)

Nicolulfuron + Rimsulfuron (Steadfast)
Primisulfuron (Beacon)

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL PRACTICES

There are no biological controls approved for use on quackgrass at this time.