



# Quackgrass

*Elymus repens*

- Creeping perennial grass
- 1 to 3 ft. tall
- Rhizomes can penetrate hardened soils and even root other plants
- Thrives in crops, rangeland, pasture, and lawns
- Spreads by roots and seeds

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## Suggested Control Methods for Quack Grass

### Chemical Control (Most Effective)

- **Glyphosate:** The most effective method is spraying or painting glyphosate directly onto the quack grass. Because it is non-selective, it will kill any plant it touches. For lawns, carefully apply it to the taller blades of quack grass using a brush, sponge, or glove.
  - **Targeted Application:** Use a paintbrush to apply glyphosate to the tips of the quack grass, avoiding desirable turf. Another method is to use a wand applicator or a weed wiper to apply herbicide selectively.
- Timing:** Spring and fall are the best times for application when the plant is actively growing.

### Mechanical and Cultural Control

- **Manual Removal:** Digging out the rhizomes is effective for small, new infestations, but you must remove all root fragments, as they will re-sprout.
  - **Mowing and Nitrogen:** Mowing frequently at a lower height and applying increased nitrogen fertilizer can help the desirable turf compete against and suppress the quack grass.
- Mulching:** In garden beds, use 2-3 inches of mulch, landscape fabric, or black plastic to smother the grass.

### Key Considerations

- **Persistence:** It may take 3-5 years of consistent effort to eradicate, as seeds can remain dormant in the soil.
  - **Avoid Tilling:** Tilling often makes the infestation worse by cutting and spreading the rhizomes.
- Reseeding:** After killing the quack grass, it is often necessary to reseed or lay new sod to prevent it from returning.