

PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

Lolium perenne

Grass Family (Poaceae)

DESCRIPTION

Perennial ryegrass is similar in appearance to annual ryegrass, *Lolium multiflorum*. To distinguish the two grasses: perennial ryegrass lacks awns (short bristles) on its florets; annual ryegrass has awns on its florets. Perennial ryegrass leaves are folded in the bud, but annual ryegrass leaves are rolled in the bud. Perennial ryegrass has more spikelets than annual ryegrass.

IMPACT

Perennial ryegrass contains alkaloids that appear to become more toxic when under drought stress. In Australia, prolonged grazing of perennial ryegrass can be fatal to sheep and cattle, and cause a form of staggers disease that is different from that caused by other invasive grasses.

TREATMENT OPTIONS

See Harding grass. Brushcutting and covering is especially appropriate for perennial ryegrass as it is a softer grass and thus less likely to push off the landscape fabric.



Notes