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# TURFGRASS SCIENCE

at the University of Tennessee

## Weed Control in Centipedegrass (*Eremochloa ophiuroides*)

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### Introduction

Centipedegrass (*Eremochloa ophiuroides*) is a perennial warm-season turfgrass used on parks, golf course roughs, cemeteries, roadsides and lawns throughout the southeastern United States. Compared to several other warm-season species, centipedegrass requires less nitrogen fertility and maintenance due to its relatively slow rate of growth. New cultivars (e.g., TifBlair) with improved cold tolerance have been developed for use in the Turfgrass Transition Zone. For more information on centipedegrass varieties acclimated to Tennessee, see UT Extension publication W159-C, Turfgrass Selection: Centipedegrass. Despite these advantages, controlling weeds in centipedegrass can be challenging, in that this species is intolerant of many herbicides commonly used for broadleaf and grassy weed control in turfs.

### Centipedegrass Life Cycle and Growth in Tennessee

Centipedegrass green-up begins in late spring with maximum growth occurring during the summer months. Leaves turn yellow then brown as plants enter winter dormancy. The species exhibits slow vertical growth and does not perform well at mowing heights less than 1 inch. Centipedegrass tolerates drought and has limited shade tolerance.

### Centipedegrass Identification

Centipedegrass leaves end in a boat-shaped tip and plants have a membranous ligule with fine hairs (Figure 1). Centipedegrass, like St. Augustinegrass



Figure 1. Boat-shaped tip of centipedegrass.

(*Stenotaphrum secundatum*), has aboveground runners or stolons. However, leaves of centipedegrass are arranged alternately along stolons, while those on St. Augustinegrass are arranged on opposite sides of the stolon (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Centipedegrass stolon.

## Weed Control Options in Centipedegrass

Centipedegrass is intolerant of many herbicides used for broadleaf and grassy weed control in other turfs. Table 1 contains a list of herbicides labeled for use on established centipedegrass turf. If applied according to label instructions, the potential for injuring centipedegrass with most of these herbicides is very low. However, some herbicides are labeled for use on centipedegrass at certain application rates only. The injury potential of these herbicides is considered medium to high. Always be sure to apply any herbicide at labeled rates with calibrated equipment to reduce the chance of undesirable turfgrass injury.

## Final Thoughts

Centipedegrass is commonly used on parks, golf course roughs, cemeteries, roadsides and lawns in the Turfgrass Transition Zone. When managed properly centipedegrass forms a dense turf that competes well against weed infestation. However, should a herbicide

application be needed for weed control, be sure to select a product labeled for use on centipedegrass, as many other herbicides can cause undesirable turfgrass injury.

This publication contains herbicide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the herbicide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific herbicide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication. Always refer to the product label for specific information on proper product use, tank-mix compatibility and turfgrass tolerance. For more information on turfgrass weed control, visit the University of Tennessee's turfgrass weed science website, <http://tennesseeturfgrassweeds.org>.

**Table 1.**

Active Ingredient (Trade Name Ex.)	Formulations	Rate ai/a	Injury Potential to Established Grass*
<b>Preemergence Herbicides</b>			
benefin (Balan)	2.5G	1.5-3 lb	Low
benefin + oryzalin (XL 2G)	2G	2-3 lb	Low
benefin + trifluralin (Team 2G)	2G	1.5-3 lb	Low
bensulide (Bensumec)	4FL	7.6-12.4 lb	Low
dimethenamid-P (Tower)	6EC	0.98-1.5 lb	Low
dithiopyr (Dimension, Dimension Ultra)	1EC, 40WP, 2EW, others	0.38-0.5 lb	Low
indaziflam (Specticle)	20 WSP	0.0313-0.0625 lb	Medium
isoxaben (Gallery)	75DF	0.5-1 lb	Low
metolachlor (Pennant Magnum)		1.24-2.48 lb	Low
oryzalin (Surflan)	4AS	1.5-2 lb	Low
oxadiazon + prodiamine (Regalstar II)	1.2G	2.4 lb	Medium
pendimethalin (Pendulum Aquacap, others)	3.8L, others	1.5-3 lb	Low
prodiamine (Barricade, others)	65WG, 4FL, others	0.38-1 lb	Low
prodiamine + sulfentrazone (Echelon)	4SC	0.57-0.75 lb	Low
simazine (Princep)	4L, 90DF	1-2 lb	Low

**Table 1. (continued)**

<b>Active Ingredient (Trade Name Ex.)</b>	<b>Formulations</b>	<b>Rate ai/a</b>	<b>Injury Potential to Established Grass*</b>
<b><i>Postemergence Herbicides</i></b>			
2,4-D amine	4L	0.75-1 lb	Medium
2,4-D + MCPP or MCPA + dicamba (Three-way, Trimec, others)	Various	Various	High
2,4-D + triclopyr + fluroxypyr (Momentum fx2)	2.8L	1 lb	High
atrazine (Aatrex, Atrazine)	4L, 90DF	1-2 lb	Low
bentazon (Basagran T/O, Lescogran)	4L	1 lb	Low
carfentrazone (Quicksilver T&O)	1.9EC	0.016-0.031 lb	Low
carfentrazone + 2,4-D + MCPP + dicamba (Speedzone Southern)	0.81L	0.55-1.39 lb	Medium
carfentrazone + quinclorac (SquareOne)	70WDG	0.53-0.79 lb	Medium
chlorsulfuron (Corsair, Telar)	75WDG	0.75-4 oz	Medium
clopyralid + triclopyr (Confront)	3L	0.375-0.75 lb	Medium
dicamba (Banvel, Vanquish, others)	4L	0.25-0.5 lb	Medium
flazasulfuron (Katana)	25WG	0.0078-0.047 lb	Low
halosulfuron (SedgeHammer)	75DF	0.031-0.062 lb	Low
imazaquin (Image)	70DG	0.37-0.5 lb	Medium
mesotrione (Tenacity)	4FL	0.156-0.25 lb	Low
metsulfuron (Manor, Blade)	60DF	0.15-0.3 oz	High
metsulfuron + sulfentrazone (Blindside)	66WDG	0.269-0.413 lb	Medium-High
quinclorac + sulfentrazone (Solitare)	75WDG	0.75-1.5 lb	Medium-High
rimsulfuron (Tranxit GTA)	25DF	0.125-0.5 oz	Medium
sethoxydim (Segment)	1EC	0.28 lb.	Medium
sulfentrazone (Dismiss)	4L	0.125-0.375 lb	Medium
sulfentrazone + imazethapyr (Dismiss South)	4L	0.29-0.45 lb	High
sulfosulfuron (Certainty)	75WDG	5.3-43 g	Medium
thiencarbazone + iodosulfuron + dicamba (Celsius)	68WDG	0.106-0.208 lb	Medium

\*Low designates the herbicides that are least likely to cause injury; Medium designates herbicides that centipedegrass is less tolerant of these products; High designates herbicides that will cause some level of injury