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## Outline

- Why are weeds a problem on sports fields?
- Why is correct weed ID important?
- Key steps to properly ID a weed
  - Classes of weeds
  - Weed life cycles
- Common weeds found on sports fields

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## Why are weeds a problem?

- Lower the aesthetic quality of the field
- Competition with desired turf species for resources
- Influence on playability and player safety
  - Ball- and player-surface interactions
- Shortened field longevity



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## Keys to Successful Weed Control

- **Correct weed ID**
- Knowledge of weed biology
  - Annual vs perennial
- Use of cultural practices to reduce weed populations
- Proper herbicide selection, timing, and application

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## Weeds as Indicators

- Weed presence and frequency change over time as conditions change
- A population shift in certain weed species or large monocultures of a specific weed can indicate underlying environmental problems
- Correct weed ID is critical to determining these underlying environmental problems!

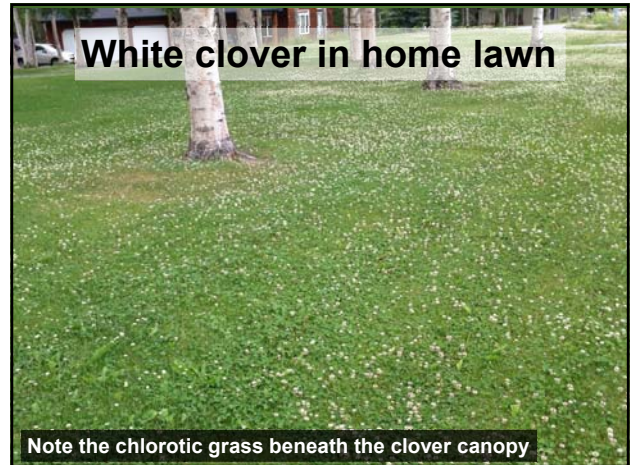
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### Classes of Weeds

- Grasses
- Sedges
- Broadleaves

Three small images illustrating different weed classes: a grass, a sedge, and a broadleaf.

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### Grasses

- Monocots, one cotyledon
- Parallel veins
- Round, Oval, or Flat stems
- Hollow internodes

Three small images illustrating grass features: a leaf with parallel veins (captioned "Virginia Tech Weed ID Guide"), a stem, and a seedling.

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### Sedges

- Monocots
- Triangular stems
- Solid stems

Three small images illustrating sedge plants and stems. One image shows a sedge plant with a triangular stem (captioned "VT Weed Identification Guide").

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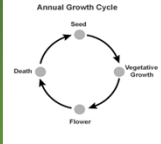
### Broadleaves

- Dicots, two cotyledons
- Wider leaves than grasses or sedges
- Netted or branched veins
- Branched stem

Three small images illustrating broadleaf plants and leaves. One image shows a broadleaf leaf with netted veins (captioned "Virginia Tech Weed ID Guide").

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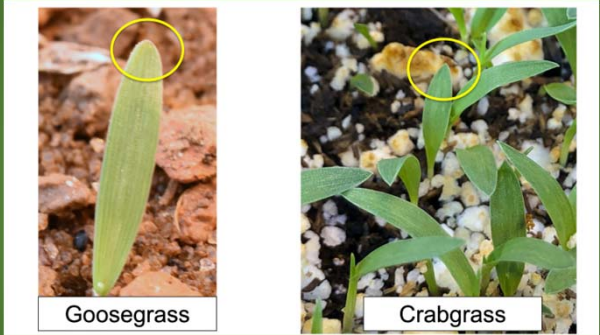
## Weed Lifecycles



- **Summer annuals**
  - Germinate in spring; grow in summer; die in fall
- **Winter annuals**
  - Germinate in fall; grow in spring; die in summer
- **Perennials**
  - Ability to overwinter; resume growth year to year

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## Know What to Look For.....




Goosegrass

Crabgrass

Slide by: M. Elmore, Rutgers Univ

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## Annual Bluegrass




bunch-type growth

lime green color

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## Annual Bluegrass



open panicle seedhead

boat shaped leaf tip

membranous ligule; no auricles

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## Large Crabgrass




low spreading growth

wide leaves with many coarse hairs

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## Large Crabgrass



prominent ligule and hairs

very hairy leaf blades

divided spike seedhead

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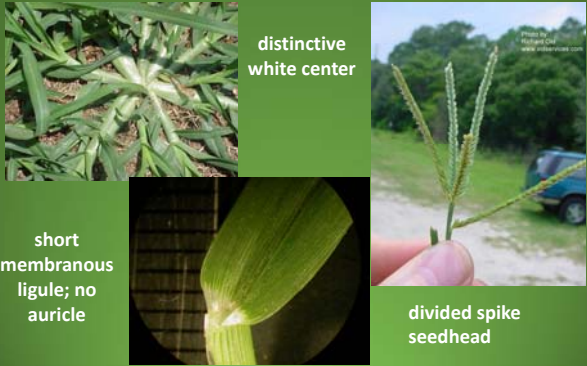
### Goosegrass



bunch-type growth      invades compacted turf

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### Goosegrass



distinctive white center

short membranous ligule; no auricle

divided spike seedhead

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### Dallisgrass




coarse-textured plant; seedheads difficult to mow

rhizomatous growth

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### Dallisgrass



hair on edge of collar

pointed, membranous ligule; no auricle

divided spike seedhead

short, thick rhizomes

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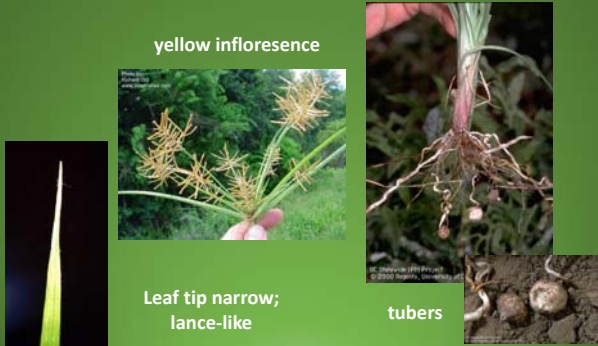
### Yellow Nutsedge



typically grows quicker than desired turf

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### Yellow Nutsedge



yellow inflorescence

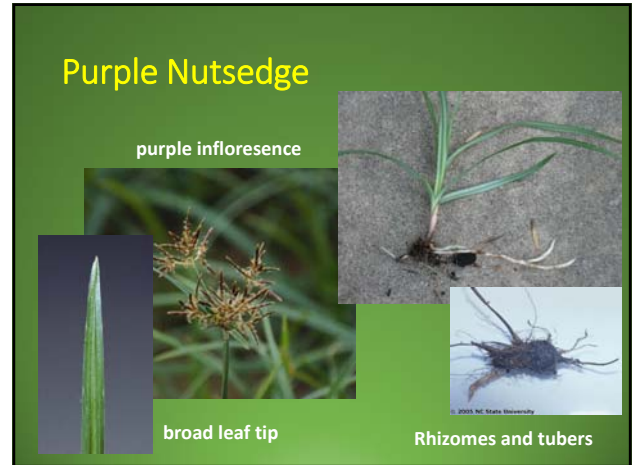
Leaf tip narrow; lance-like

tubers

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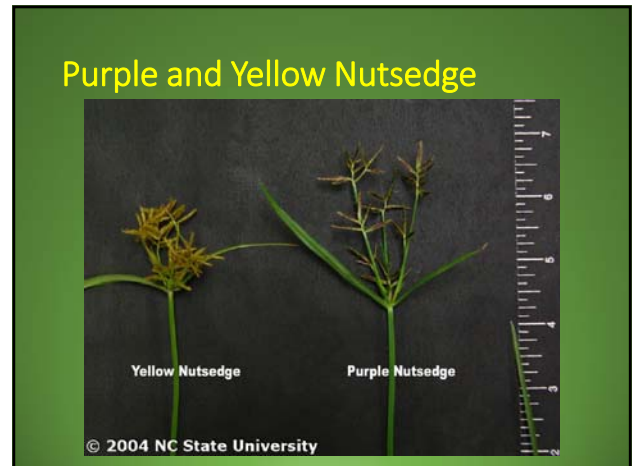
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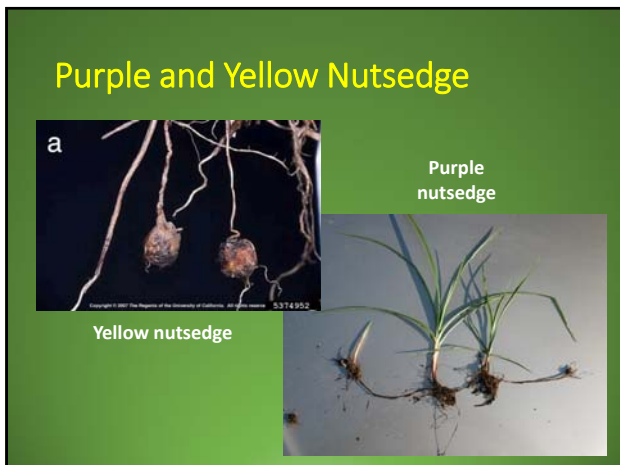
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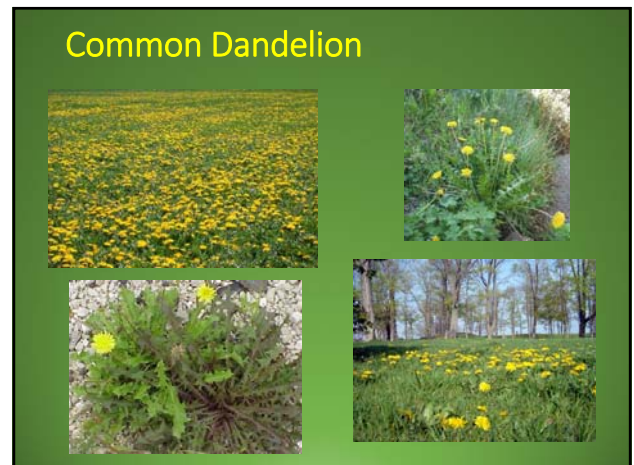
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### Common Dandelion



White, cotton-like seedhead



Deeply serrated leaves



Single yellow flower

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### False Dandelion



Rosette leaf arrangement



Numerous yellow flowers

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### False Dandelion



Flowers smaller than common dandelion



Rounded, lobed leaves with waxy cuticle



Virginia Tech Weed ID Guide

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### White Clover



Abundant flower production



Spreading growth habit

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### White Clover



White, globe-shaped flowers



Trifoliate leaves with white watermark

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### Yellow Woodsorrel (Oxalis)



Trifoliate leaves with heart-shaped leaflets



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### Spotted Spurge



Prostrate growth habit



White, milky sap



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### Virginia Buttonweed



Spreading growth habit

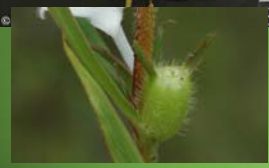
Small, white flowers with four petals



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### Virginia Buttonweed



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E-mail:  
[ebegitsc@uga.edu](mailto:ebegitsc@uga.edu)



Questions?



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