

# BULBOUS BLUEGRASS

Poa bulbosa



## CONTROL

### Hand Pulling

Due to its shallow roots, hand pulling can control bulbous bluegrass; however, it is very difficult to remove all the basal bulbs.

### Biological control

N/A.

### Grazing

Intensive grazing early in the season over the course of years can be effective in the reduction of infestations.

### Tilling and Cultivation

Spring tilling or cultivation can be used as a control for bulbous bluegrass as it disrupts its bulbil cycle. This technique is more effective if reseeding also occurs. Tilling in the fall has been shown to be less effective than in the spring.

Ideal Timing for Treatment Options		
Spring	Summer	Fall
Hand-pulling		
Grazing		
Tilling		
Foliar		Foliar

### Herbicide

There are several herbicides that can be used to effectively control bulbous bluegrass. Always consult product labels and read them carefully to ensure correct species/land management usage and chemical application. If there is a heavy infestation, it is important to re-seed after herbicide application.



## Bulbous Bluegrass Life Cycle

Life Cycle	Root	Leaves	Stems	Flower	Seed/Fruit
Short-lived cool season perennial, reproduces asexually from bulblets which form roots once it contacts soil.	Terrestrial bulb with secondary fibrous roots below.	Basal leaves with a membranous ligule (thin membrane on the inside of the leaf blade at the junction of the leaf sheath and leaf blade).	Lower stems are flattened while upper are wiry and round in cross-section.	Panicle is dense with a plume-like appearance	Produces bulblets with purple bases that form on the panicle.

## Herbicides for Bulbous Bluegrass, *Poa bulbosa*

Active Ingredient	Rate	Efficacy	Comments
Glyphosate	0.33-1.0 qt product/acre	Post-emergence in early spring before the active growth of desired perennials	This is a non-selective herbicide with no soil activity. Ensure application prior to the growth of desired perennial species, as it will kill any actively growing plant.
Imazapic	4-12 oz product/acre	Pre-emergence or early emergence (fall to early spring)	Has long soil residual activity. Effectiveness can depend on soil texture and organic matter, with heavier soils requiring higher concentration. Efficacy is reduced with heavy litter and thick thatch on soil surface. In the case of post-emergent application, use a spray adjuvant.
Imazapyr	2-3 pt product/acre	Pre-emergence or postemergence	This is a non-selective herbicide with long soil residual activity.
Rimsulfuron	2-4 pt product/acre	Preemergence (fall) or postemergence (early spring)	If applying post-emergence, add a surfactant. Also controls some other annual grasses and broadleaf weeds. Application to irrigated perennial grasses can cause death. In cool climates it can have residual soil control.
Sulfometuron	1 oz product/acre	Early post-emergence in spring	At high use this product will likely cause bare ground which can be used to revegetate. Lower rates are recommended for arid areas.
Sulfometuron + chlorsulfuron	0.75 oz product/acre	Pre-emergence in fall or spring (as soon as soil thaws)	At high use this product will likely cause bare ground which can be used to revegetate. Lower rates are recommended for arid areas.
Sulfosulfuron	0.75-2 oz product/acre	Early post-emergence (when bulbous bluegrass rapidly growing and desirable plants are dormant)	Use a non-ionic surfactant. Fairly safe to use on wheatgrasses and other perennial grasses. Can be applied sequentially leaving 21 days between application as long as annual use is not greater than 2.66 oz/acre.