

Scouringrush: Another “ornamental” creeping into lawns August 3, 2017

According to the *USDA Plants Database*, scouringrush (*Equisetum hyemale*) is native to North America, among other locations. It grows naturally in low-lying wet areas, but has also been used as an ornamental plant around ponds or to beautify manufactured waterways (Figure 1). Scouringrush is a perennial plant that spreads aggressively from rhizomes and perhaps even from spore-producing cones. If not properly contained, the plant may rapidly invade and establish in areas where not desired.



Figure 1. The stems and spore-producing cones of scouringrush (*left*), and scouringrush growing in drainage (*middle*) and low-lying areas (*right*).

Very little research has been done to control scouringrush in agricultural systems, and a quick search turned up no trials in turf. The two most recent reports I found indicate best control with chlorsulfuron, or a mixture of chlorsulfuron + MCPA, in late summer with or without mowing before treatment. Chlorsulfuron (Telar XP) is not labeled for use in turf, but may be used along roadsides and rights of way. Mixtures of halosulfuron and broadleaf herbicides (e.g. MCPA, 2,4-D, dicamba, etc.) or triclopyr (alone) also provided some measure of control. Glyphosate was not effective in these trials.

Bottom line. If glyphosate is ineffective, halosulfuron or triclopyr may be options for scouringrush control in turf, but applications over multiple years will be required.

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