

**Escaped *Pennisetum* becoming more common in lawns  
August 18, 2014**

We have gotten a number of samples and emailed pictures of escaped fountain grass (*Pennisetum*) in lawns. An April 2013 Turf iNfo has more information (<http://turf.unl.edu/pdfctarticles/aprilpennisetum.pdf>), but characteristics for identification of this weed include a very compressed whitish base and the leaf tip is usually shredded from mowing (Fig. 1) regardless of the sharpness of the mower. Another clue is that there is fountain grass in a nearby ornamental bed. Many will confuse it for crabgrass, tall fescue, or goosegrass. Our earlier work found Q4 at 3 oz/gal or Drive 75WDG (quinclorac) at 0.367 oz/gal to be effective when spot-applied in one mid-summer application or preferably in two mid-summer applications two weeks apart. Only apply enough water to just wet the plant. Glyphosate wick-applied or digging individual plants would also work with only a few plants in the landscape.

For full details:

Voigt, T. B., and Reicher, Z. J. 2009. Selectively controlling escaped fountain grass in cool-season turf. Applied Turfgrass Science. <http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/pub/ats/research/2009/fountain/>

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**Figures 1 and 2. The initial indication that *Pennisetum* has escaped is usually small patches of light green turf with shredded white leaf tips after mowing.**

