

Washington Invasive Ranking System

Washington Natural Heritage Program

Poa annua (Annual Bluegrass)

Assessed by

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21 November 2024 (WIRS Version 1.5)

Ecological Impact Rank: **Insignificant (6)**

Confidence: **High (100)**

Management Difficulty Rank: Insignificant (0)

Confidence: High (100)

Biological Characteristics of Invasiveness: High (71)

Confidence: High (71)

Concern Related to Distribution and Abundance: Moderate (56)

Confidence: High (70)

Washington Invasive Species Council: No



Photo Credit: Julie Kierstead Nelson 2002, used under Creative Commons license (CalPhotos, 2024).

Ranking Notes

Rapid assessment only, based primarily on professional expertise.

Legal Listings

Washington State Weed Board: No

Section 1: Distribution and Abundance

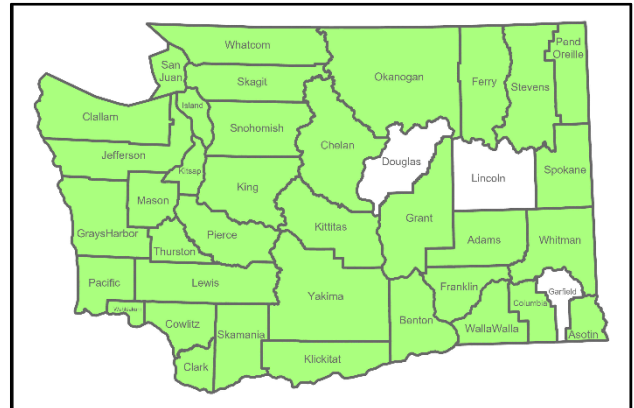


Figure 1. Distribution of counties where *Poa annua* has been documented in Washington State (CPNWH, 2024; EDDMapS, 2024; iNaturalist Community, 2024).

Q1: Current Range Size in Washington

Rating: High

Confidence: High

Poa annua is found in 92% of counties in Washington State (CPNWH, 2024; EDDMapS, 2024; iNaturalist Community, 2024).

Source: Professional expertise, Herbarium records and other observations

Q2: Current Trend in Total Range

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

Source: Professional Expertise

Q3: Proportion of Potential Range Currently Unoccupied

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q4: Local Range Expansion or Change in Abundance

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q5: Diversity of Ecosystems Invaded

Ecosystem types: Forest & Woodland, Grassland & Shrubland

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Section 2: Biological Characteristics

Q6: Aggressive Mode of Reproduction

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q7: Innate Potential for Long-Distance Dispersal

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q8: Potential to be Spread by Human Activities

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q9: Allelopathy

Rating: No

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q10: Competitive for Limiting Abiotic Factors

Rating: Yes

Confidence: Moderate

This species is a winter annual.

Source: Professional expertise

Q11: Growth Form

Rating: No

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q12: Germination Requirements

Rating: No

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q13: Invasiveness of Other Plants in Genus

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q14: Shade Tolerance

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q15: Disturbance Tolerance

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

This plant thrives on disturbance.

Source: Professional expertise

Q16: Propagule Persistence

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q17: Palatability

Rating: No, plant is palatable

Confidence: High

This plant is highly palatable to livestock (Cornell CALS, 2025).

Source: Professional expertise

Section 3: Ecological Impact

Q18: Impact on Ecosystem Abiotic Processes

Abiotic Processes: None listed

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q19: Impact on Ecosystem Structure

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

This species tends to grow in trampled areas where few other plants will grow—structural impacts are insignificant.

Source: Professional expertise

Q20: Impact on Ecosystem Composition

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q21: Impact on Particular Native Species

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q22: Observed Ability to Invade Undisturbed Ecosystems

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

This species requires disturbance.

Source: Professional expertise

Q23: Observed Ability to Invade Naturally Disturbed Ecosystems

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Section 4: Management Difficulty

Q24: General Management Difficulty

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q25: Minimum Time Commitment

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q26: Impacts of Management on Native Species

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q27: Inaccessibility of Invaded Areas

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q28: Sociopolitical Implications of Management

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Public opposition is unlikely, aside from generalized herbicide skepticism.

Source: Professional expertise

Additional Comments

None

References

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