

Removing *Poa annua* from Couch

Annual winter grass (*Poa annua*) is the most challenging grassy weed to control when it occurs as an undesirable weed in managed turf situations. The population of *Poa annua* in Australia consists of many diverse biotypes that display variability in herbicide susceptibility and survival.

The two most unique characteristics of *Poa annua* are prolific seed production and the diversity of its bio-types. Seed production by annual types typically starts during August and September and runs through spring. Each plant can produce more than 1,000 viable seeds per season.

The seeding ability of *Poa annua* combined with added selection pressure from intense turf management practices has resulted in some biotypes of this annual grass displaying many characteristics of perennial growth, such as infrequent seeding and persistence through multiple seasons. These perennial biotypes are proving to be very difficult to remove from putting surfaces where herbicide use is risky.



Poa annua displaying early MONUMENT® LIQUID symptoms – yellowing and growth seizure at 2-3 weeks after application.

Having a reliable post-emergent control strategy is paramount in managing *Poa annua* in any situation including sporting facilities, golf courses and bowling greens.

The most common and reliable method of controlling grassy weeds is to apply pre-emergent herbicides to affected areas prior to seed germination. This strategy can be rendered less than effective as *Poa annua* plant survival throughout the year makes it very difficult to judge the application timing as truly pre-emergent. MONUMENT LIQUID is an excellent choice for post-emergent *Poa annua* control in mainly couch surfaces. Application timing is the most effective during autumn and spring when the peaks of *Poa annua* seed germination occurs and can assist pre-emergent herbicides to realise full control potential. MONUMENT LIQUID is a new and easy to use formulation with negligible odour. MONUMENT LIQUID is fully systemic and slowly spreads to all plant parts resulting in total plant death and high percentages of *Poa annua* population control.



Total control of *Poa annua* with MONUMENT LIQUID – 4-5 weeks after application versus untreated control on right.

APPLICATION AND MIXING ESSENTIALS

1. Apply in autumn and spring.
2. Avoid applying when soil temperatures are below 14°C as this will severely affect control.
3. Always apply with a quality non-ionic surfactant. Use AGRAL (600 g ai/L) at 420 mL/100 L spray mix or other (1000 g ai/L) products at 250 mL/100 L spray mix.
4. Avoid applying to stressed plants. *Poa annua* plants under stress from pre-emergent herbicides, adverse climatic conditions or failed post-emergence herbicide applications may prove difficult to fully control.
5. Ensure mixing water has a pH of at least 6.5. Acidic pH contributes to the rapid hydrolysis of MONUMENT LIQUID's active ingredient, trifloxysulfuron. Avoid using acidifying agents and buffer pH to neutral if spray water source is known to have acidic pH.
6. Avoid mowing 1-2 days prior and after application.

For optimal results, ensure adequate foliar spray coverage. To achieve this, an AIXR or Turbo TurfJet type nozzle is recommended to deliver course droplet spectrum. Apply in a water rate of at least 400 L/ha.

Green Skeletons

Green skeletons are a term used for weeds hanging on to life by their fingertips. When weeds are stressed a shutdown of metabolism and more importantly water movement in the xylem and phloem occurs. A systemic herbicide like MONUMENT LIQUID relies heavily on active water movement and cell turgidity to enable maximum distribution and control. *Poa annua* are perfect Green Skeleton candidates. Ineffective herbicide application, root tipping pre-emergent herbicides, extreme temperatures and soil moisture can all push a healthy, controllable *Poa* plant over the brink to become a hard to control skeleton.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

(extract from MONUMENT LIQUID label)

Situation	Weeds	Rate
Established turf as named: Common Couch (<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>), Durban Grass (<i>Dactyloctenium australe</i>), Hybrid Couch (<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> x <i>Cynodon transvaalensis</i>), Qld Blue Couch (<i>Digitaria didactyla</i>), <i>Zoysia</i> (<i>Zoysia japonica</i>)	Burr Medic (<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>)	115 mL/ha
	Mullumbimby Couch (<i>Cyperus brevifolius</i>), Nutgrass (<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>)	150 mL/ha
	Bindii (<i>Soliva sessilis</i>), Ryegrass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>), Winter Grass (<i>Poa annua</i>)	225 mL/ha
	Clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>) Catsear (<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>) Cotula (<i>Cotula australis</i>) Creeping Oxalis (<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>) Curled Dock (<i>Rumex crispus</i>) Chickweed (<i>Stellaria media</i>) Milk Thistle (<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>)	300 mL/ha
	Kikuyu (<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>) SUPPRESSION ONLY	

READ THE FULL MONUMENT LIQUID LABEL FOR FURTHER DIRECTIONS.

For further information please call the Syngenta Technical Product Advice Line on 1800 067 108 or visit our website at www.greencast.com.au