



Vegetative key to 50 common landscape weeds of South Florida

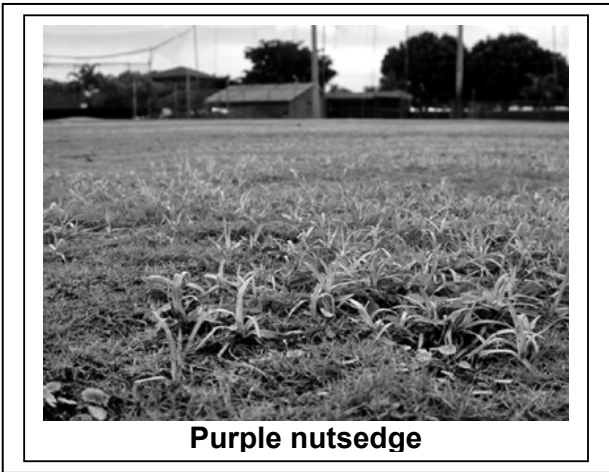
Dr. Phil Busey

D R A F T—Please send me your comments¹

- 1 Leaves 10 times longer than wide and veins parallel  not branched  ..CONTINUE TO 2
IF NOT — SKIP TO 24
- 2 Upright stems somewhat triangular and leaves very shinyCONTINUE TO 3
IF NOT — SKIP TO 5

Sedges

- 3 Grows as a dense mat less than 6 inches tall **green kyllinga**
IF NOT — CONTINUE TO 4
- 4 Comes from the ground in tight clumps..... **bunch sedge**
IF NOT **purple nutsedge**



¹ Revised June 5, 2009, by Philip Busey, Assoc. Prof. Environ. Hort, University of Florida, Davie, FL 33314, 954-579-3932 (cell), turf@ufl.edu (email), <http://grove.ufl.edu/~turf/> (URL)

5 Creeps by horizontal stems (runners) either above the ground (stolons) or below the ground (rhizomes) forming patchesCONTINUE TO 6

IF NOT — SKIP TO 18

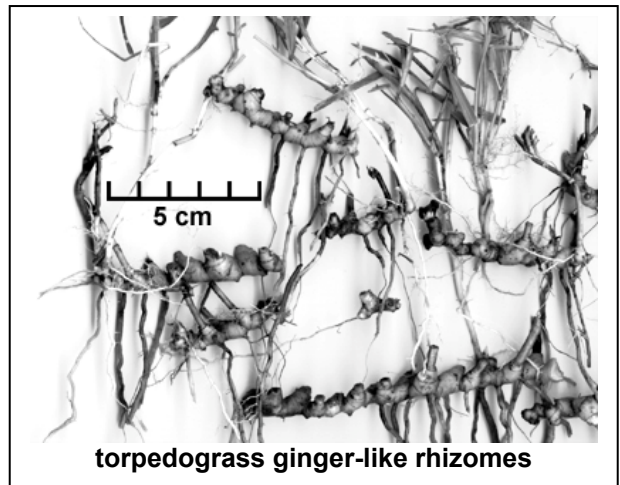
Sod-forming grasses

6 Weed has belowground runners (rhizomes)CONTINUE TO 7

IF NOT — SKIP TO 11

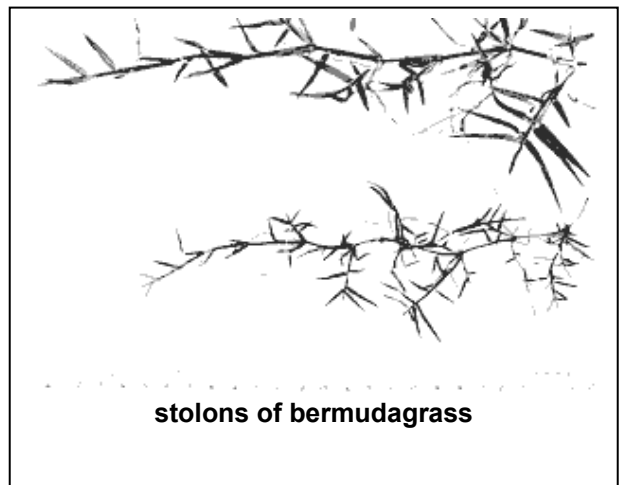
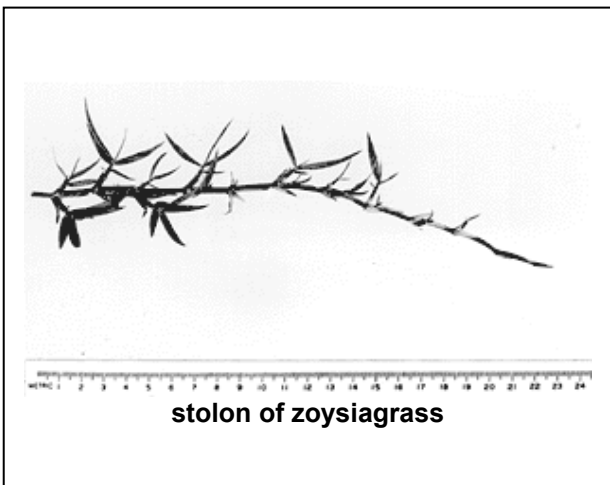
7 Leaves frequently more than 18 inches tall cogongrass
IF NOT — CONTINUE TO 8

8 Leaves mainly vertical (erect) and sparsetorpedograss
IF NOT — CONTINUE TO 9



9 Leaves pointed and emerge rolled (involute)zoysiagrass
IF NOT — CONTINUE TO 10

10 Leaf blades have many small hairsbermudagrass
IF NOT seashore paspalum



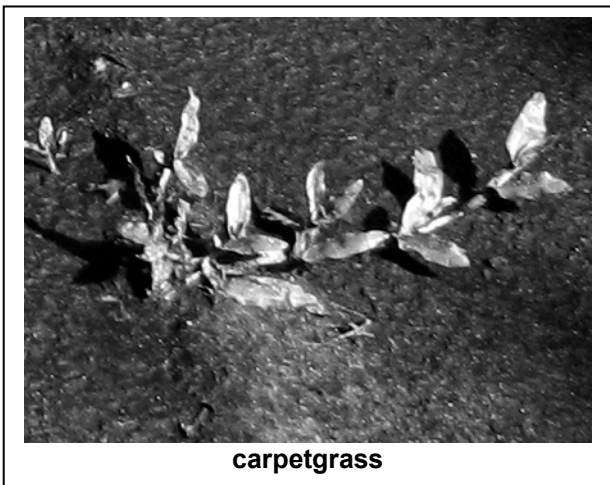
- 11 Leaf blades more than 3/4 inch wide.....**basketgrass**
 IF NOT — CONTINUE TO 12



- 12 Runners (stolons) hug flat to the groundCONTINUE TO 13
 IF NOT — CONTINUE TO 14

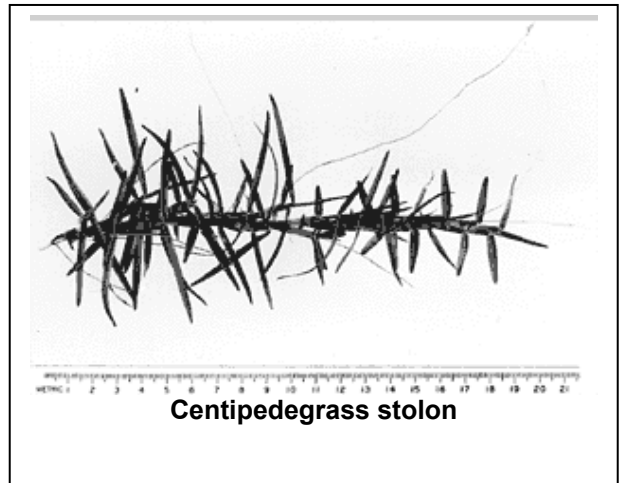
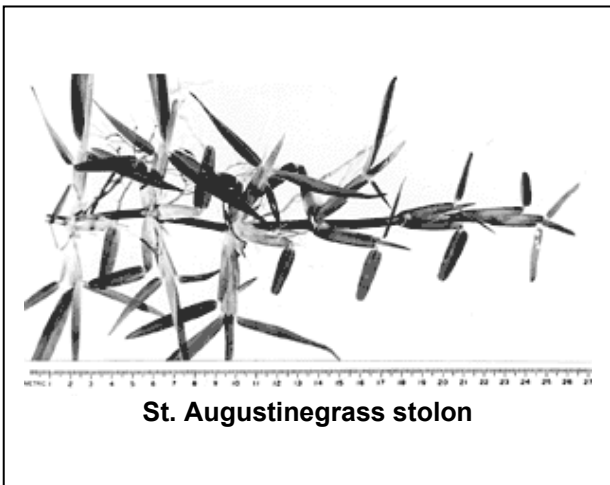
- 13 Stolon more than 1/4 inch thick**bahiagrass**
 IF NOT**carpetgrass**

- 14 Leaves light, almost silvery.....**crowfootgrass**
 IF NOT — CONTINUE TO 15

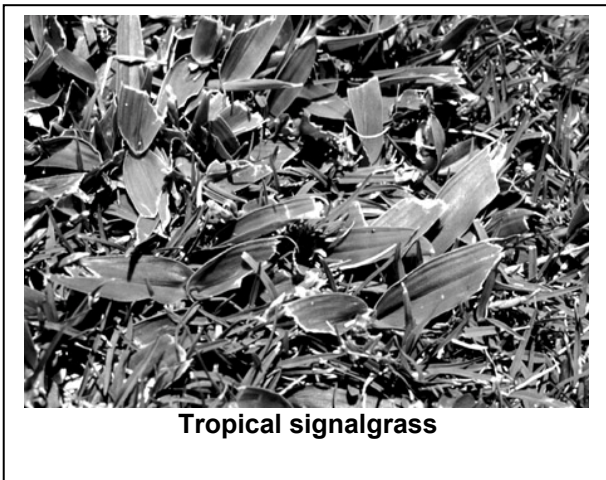


15 Leaf blade at least somewhat rounded at the tip.....CONTINUE TO 16
IF NOT — SKIP TO 17

16 Leaf blades broad, 6-10 mm wide**St. Augustinegrass**
IF NOT **centipedegrass**

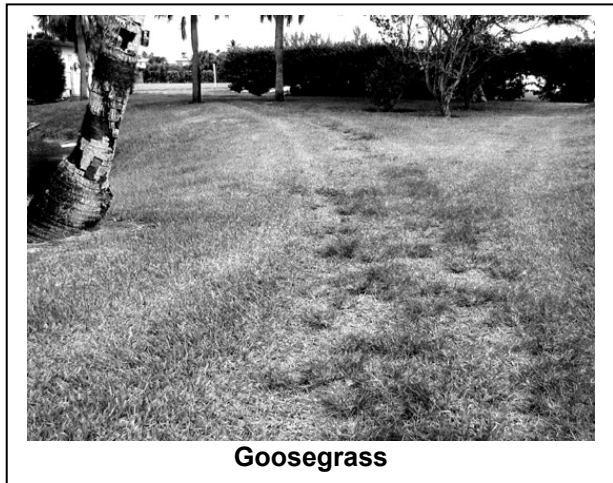


17 Leaves stiff not soft, and shiny**tropical signalgrass**
IF NOT **crabgrasses**



Bunch grasses

- 18 Has a distinct spreading center near the ground.....CONTINUE TO 19
IF NOT — SKIP TO 20
- 19 Has a silvery centergoosegrass
IF NOTbullgrass

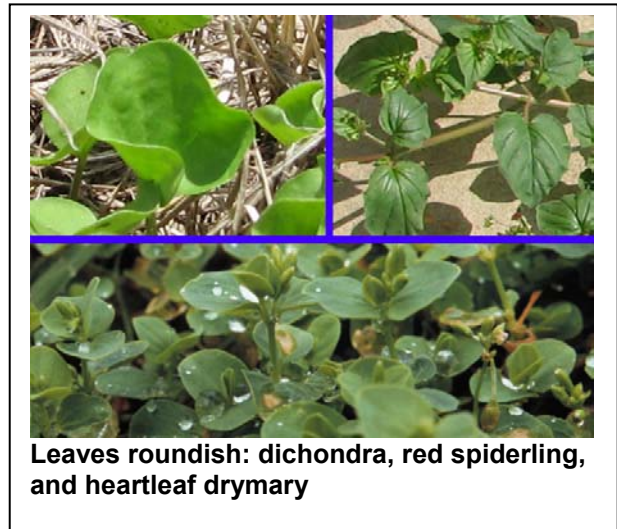


- 20 Very short, less than 3 inches tall.....annual bluegrass
IF NOT — CONTINUE TO 21
- 21 Sprawls or trails along the ground.....sandspur
IF NOT — CONTINUE TO 22
- 22 The ligule (inside the collar) is papery.....sprangletop
IF NOT — CONTINUE TO 23
- 23 Mostly less than 3 feet tall and leaves rolled.....smutgrass
IF NOTvaseygrass

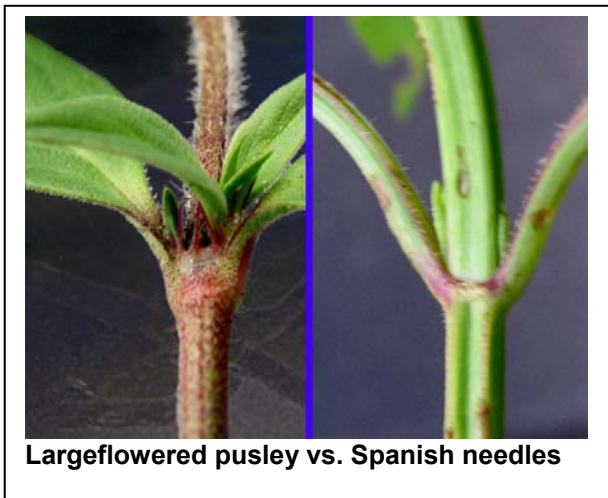


Broadleaf weeds

- 24 Leaves somewhat fleshy and leaf veins parallelCONTINUE TO 25
IF NOT — SKIP TO 26
- 25 Some leaves at least 1/2 inch wide **common dayflower**
IF NOT **doveweed**
- 26 Petiole attached in center of the leaf **dollarweed**
IF NOT — CONTINUE TO 27



- 27 Weed creeps and forms a mat, stems hug groundCONTINUE TO 28
IF NOT — SKIP TO 32
- 28 Leaves roundish **dichondra**
IF NOT — CONTINUE TO 29
- 29 A small cup encircles nodes connecting the leaf basesCONTINUE TO 30
IF NOT — SKIP TO 31



30 Horizontal stems have small hairs..... **largeflowered pusley**
IF NOT **Virginia buttonweed**

31 Stems squarish **matchweed**
IF NOT **green shrimpplant**



Green shrimp plant

32 Leaves opposite CONTINUE TO 33
IF NOT — SKIP TO 39

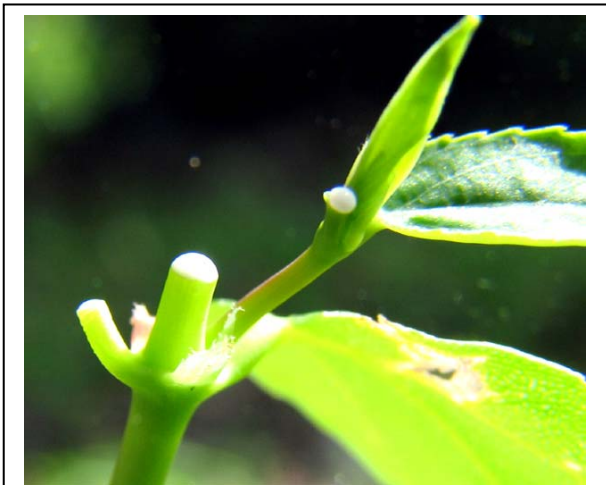
33 Leaves about as wide as long CONTINUE TO 34
IF NOT — SKIP TO 35

34 Leaves less than 1 inch wide..... **heartleaf drymary**
IF NOT **red spiderling**

35 Leaves deeply incised CONTINUE TO 36
IF NOT — SKIP TO 37

36 Leaves somewhat fleshy and rough to touch **coat buttons**
IF NOT **Spanish needles**

37 Leaves and stems exude milky latex when broken **spurges**
IF NOT — CONTINUE TO 38

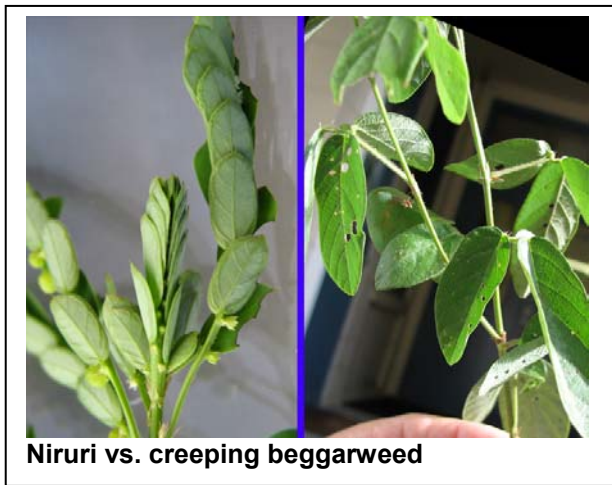


Spurge showing milky latex

- 38 Has a strong taproot and cannot be pulled **whitehead broom**
 IF NOT **Old World diamondflower**



- 39 Leaves made of separate leaflets (compound) **CONTINUE TO 40**
 IF NOT — **SKIP TO 44**

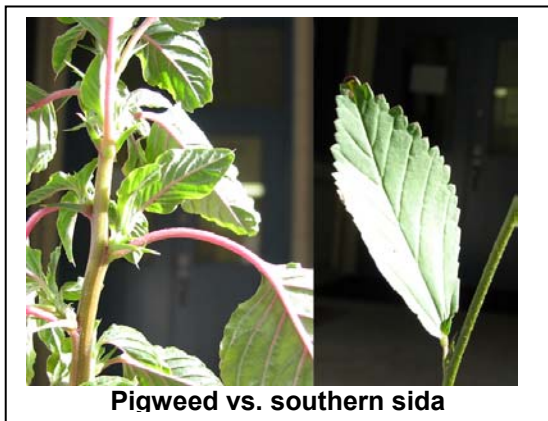


- 40 Leaves palmately compound with three leaflets **CONTINUE TO 41**
 IF NOT **chamberbitter (niruri)**
- 41 Leaflets heart-shaped, deeply incised at apex **yellow woodsorrel**
 IF NOT — **CONTINUE TO 42**
- 42 Leaflets more than three times as long as wide **creeping beggarweed**
 IF NOT — **CONTINUE TO 43**

- 43 Leaflets have an angled band at the base **white clover**
 IF NOT **black medic**



- 44 Leaves deeply cleft or incised CONTINUE TO 45
 IF NOT — SKIP TO 47
- 45 Basal rosette (ring) of leaves present **Asiatic hawkbeard**
 IF NOT — CONTINUE TO 46
- 46 Upper leaves deeply cleft **common ragweed**
 IF NOT **cupid's shaving brush**
- 47 Leaves fuzzy and grayish due to copious silky hairs **cudweed**
 IF NOT — CONTINUE TO 48
- 48 Leaves serrate CONTINUE TO 49
 IF NOT — SKIP TO 50
- 49 Petioles at least 1/4 as long as the leaf blade **pigweeds**
 IF NOT **southern sida**



50 Leaves elongate, more than four times longer than wide **horseweed**
IF NOT **Florida pellitory**