

Annual Meadow Grass (AMG)

Annual Meadow Grass is commonly thought of as a weed grass as it has very distinguishing features which stand out against other cultivated grass species. It has a quick reproductive cycle as its tolerance to stress is not great. So late spring / early summer you will likely see the plant "liming" when it is starting to run out of water and feed.

As the name suggests it is an annual, so it seeds and then those seeds germinate the following year. It is very common and can be seen growing almost anywhere, pavements, gutters, paths, etc



AMG Management and Expectations

What is Annual Meadow Grass?

Annual Meadow Grass is a grass that has very distinguishing features which stand out against other cultivated grass species. It often spoils the appearance of the lawn in spring and will be affected by factors beyond your control such as weather.

As the name suggests it is an annual, so it seeds, germinates, grows, flowers and then dies back. The seeds cast, then germinate the following year.

Will treatment with selective weed killer kill AMG?

No, the application of a specialist "Selective" lawn weed control will not kill AMG. You can apply "non selective" weed control, but this will also kill the desired grasses in your lawn.

How do I get rid of Annual Meadow Grass in my lawn?

There are three approaches to dealing with AMG:

Kill the whole lawn and reseed it. This can be done effectively however there is no guarantee that AMG will not re populate the new lawn. The main advantage of this approach is that when AMG starts to invade again (*and it will*), it can be hand weeded fairly quickly and easily. This approach is best used on heavily infested lawns.

Hide or camouflage the AMG. By keeping up a good feeding regime the AMG will not be distinguishable from other grasses, cutting regularly and scarifying in autumn (which it doesn't like) will help keep a handle on the grass and limit its spread. Regular hand weeding by sliding a knife into the turf, below the roots and teasing the grass out, will reduce the population over time and make it more manageable.

Stressing the plant, using a Plant Growth Regulator (PGR) or reducing feed and water you can kill off the AMG. It is very shallow rooting and will die before the other grass species. The area can then be over seeded with desirable species. This can be tricky, as you are trying to reduce input into the area to induce death of AMG then trying to get a new plant to grow. However, this method of dealing with AMG has proved successful.

Our recommendations would be **Hide or camouflage the AMG.**



Creating your Integrated Approach

Working Together : Treating Safely

At Greener Gardens we work in partnership with you, ensuring we work together and treat safely.

We have created a guide and suggestions to help you understand how an integrated approach will improve the lawn issues identified and appearance of your lawn.

Many of these additional controls can be included in your lawn care programme.

Identification

See image and our web site

Biological Controls

No biological controls are available

Physical and Mechanical

- Hard cutting followed by
- Maintaining a well kept and fed lawn

Cultural Controls

- Regular cutting during the year to create a thicker sward.
- Reduce seed germination by annual over seeding with desired grass species
- Annual autumn scarification, over seeding and feeding

Tailored Control

- Ensure lawn is well fertilised
- Maintain a pro active lawn cutting routine
- Disrupt the life cycle of the plant with annual autumn Scarification
- Aerate and add soil improver to improve conditions for desired grasses

Completing one or more of the above controls will help improve your lawn.

Please note: You may decide to spray off with a total weed control and re lay or re seed, as AMG is wind blown annual plant this is no guarantee that the grass will never re appear.

Our recommended programme

Care Plan: **Lawn Lover**

Mechanical: **Let the lawn breathe every 12 months & Lawn Refresh every 12 months**

More Information on our web site: www.greenergardens.co.uk/lawn-advice/seed-heads

