

## Controlling Weedy Grasses in Stargrass Pastures

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Weedy grasses are commonly problematic in bermudagrass and stargrass fields. Bahiagrass, crabgrass, and vaseygrass are the most common offenders. Therefore, it would be greatly beneficial to determine if these grasses can be controlled, or suppressed, until stargrass gains the competitive advantage. To address this issue, Journey (imazapic + glyphosate), Impose (imazapic) and Roundup (glyphosate) was applied to stargrass contaminated with vaseygrass and bahiagrass. It was observed that Journey (at 16 or 32 oz) and Impose (6 or 12 oz) provided 100% control of vaseygrass at all rates. Additionally, higher rates resulted in approximately 80% bahiagrass control/suppression. Although the bahiagrass did not completely die, it was severely stunted and the stargrass quickly began to shade the remaining bahia clumps. Roundup at 16 oz was effective on vaseygrass, but 8 oz was not. Conversely, bahiagrass was not controlled at either rate.

It must be noted that these herbicides will stunt stargrass for a few weeks after application, but recovery and vigorous growth resume quickly. To minimize stargrass injury, mow the treated area and spray within 3 to 5 days. Weed control will also be reduced by mowing, but not significantly so.

Cimarron at 0.3 oz is the most effective herbicide for 'Pensacola' bahiagrass, but does not control other grasses or bahiagrass species. Although Journey and Impose are not as effective on 'Pensacola' as Cimarron, they are more effective on other bahiagrass varieties and grasses such as johnsongrass and crabgrass. Journey and Impose can be used to control weedy grasses that have been previously difficult, or impossible, to manage and help renovate formerly productive stargrass fields.