



**Smith Grounds Management –Enhancing your Image**



**Confirm the Health and Appearance of your Landscape**

It is important to have a complete landscape management schedule for your property. The schedule should provide the service you need, the dependability you seek, and the attention you deserve. We recommend consolidating all operations enabling you to contact one representative for all services needed.



- Such services include:**
- Snow and ice removal
  - Icemelt applications
  - Scheduled mowing services
  - Annual fertilization and weed control services
  - Complete mulching and weed control management for planting beds and ornamentals
  - Horticultural pruning of trees and shrubs
  - Tree and ornamental fertilization and pest management
  - Seasonal floral displays designed, installed, and maintained
  - Irrigation system maintenance and emergency service
  - Landscape design
  - Landscape installation
  - Horticultural evaluation

Each service plays a vital role in your landscape's health and appearance. Consolidating all services brings you ease and promotes efficiency throughout your grounds care operations.



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# WANT TO GO GREEN?



## LEED for Landscapes

Led by the U.S. Green Building Council, LEED is a nonprofit membership organization aimed toward improving the complete building cycle. Representing “Leadership in Energy and Design,” LEED provides specific guidelines to achieve energy efficient and ecologically friendly operations, maintenance, construction, and removal of both commercial and residential property. LEED's rating system measures a wide variety of actions regarding the building and determines if it is certification qualified. Earning a LEED certification is a major accomplishment that contributes to the community and environment by showing green conscious performance and operations

### How can you make a difference?

- Maintain a record of services performed to any gas powered equipment used on the property and ensure it meets regulations in regard to emissions, noise, and soil compaction.
- When applying pest chemicals to your property, be sure to use the least toxic products available.
- Fertilizer must be derived from recovered materials and should only be used when needed (see EPA link below).
- Also, keep a record of all chemicals applied, areas affected, and MSDS for chemical products applied.
- Do NOT disturb natural native vegetation areas whenever possible. Native plants are very important in LEED efforts due to less fertilizer and irrigation requirements.
- To reduce waste, all mowing equipment should be mulching equipment.
- Compost is very important and should be the solution to all yard waste. Also, maintain the optimal mix of organic materials and moisture to achieve healthy decomposition of the waste.
- Non-compost trash should be disposed of in a closed trash container and must remain closed at all times preventing animal or insect attraction.
- If used, irrigation system should be calibrated to release no more than .75” of water per week.

### Reference:

For further details regarding the LEED program and certification visit: [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)

EPA fertilizer and compost recommendations and regulations can be found at:

<http://epa.gov/osw/conserve/tools/cpg/products/compost.htm>





## Poa Annua Control – Poa Annua Grass Treatment For Lawns

By Heather Rhoades

Poa annua grass can cause problems in lawns. Reducing poa annua in lawns can be tricky, but it can be done. With a little knowledge and a little persistence, poa annua control is possible.



### What is Poa Annua Grass?

Poa annua grass, also known as annual bluegrass, is a annual weed that is commonly found in lawns, but can be found in gardens as well. It is rather difficult to control because the plant will produce several hundred seeds in one season and the seeds can lay dormant for several years before sprouting.

The identifying characteristic of poa annua grass is the tall tasseled seed stalk that will typically stand up above the rest of the lawn and becomes visible in late spring or early summer. But, while this seed stalk can be tall, if it is cut short, it can still produce seeds.

Poa annua grass is typically a problem in the lawn because it dies back in hot weather, which can make unsightly brown spots in the lawn during the height of summer. It also thrives during cool weather, when most lawn grasses are dying back, which means that it invades the lawn at these susceptible times.

### Controlling Poa Annua Grass

Poa annua grass germinates in the late fall or early spring, so timing of poa annua control is critical to being able to effectively control it. Most people choose to control poa annua with a pre-emergent herbicide. This is an herbicide that will prevent the poa annua seeds from germinating. For effective poa annua control, apply a pre-emergent herbicide in the early fall and again in early spring. This will keep the poa annua seeds from sprouting. But keep in mind that poa annua seeds are tough and can survive many seasons without germinating. This method will work towards reducing poa annua in the lawn over time. You will need to treat your lawn for many seasons in order to rid it completely of this weed.

There are some herbicides that will selectively kill poa annua in lawns, but they can only be applied by certified professionals. Round-up or boiling will also kill poa annua, but these methods will also kill any other plants that they come in contact with, so these methods should only be used in areas where you wish to kill plants on a wholesale basis.

Our certified Smith Grounds Management professionals will use PROGRASS product to control Poa Annua growth in your turf this fall.

## Efficient Leaf Removal

By Smith Grounds Management

The fast, efficient way to collect leaves. One person, one vehicle. Collects leaves safely, without mess. Smith Grounds utilizes the newest equipment and technology to serve you better. Watch for our automated leaf removal truck at your property this fall.



Watch our truck in action on



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efizQQyz9jc>

### SGM Fall Services

- Fall annuals are being installed now to provide color throughout the fall and winter seasons.
- Soon fall leaves will start to fall SGM will keep the leaves off your turf to help the new grass continue to grow.
- Full-Service customers will receive final fertilization in late November.



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