

## **Invasive Species Factsheet-Quackgrass**

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**Species Common Name:** Quackgrass

**Species Scientific Name:** *Elymus repens*

**Native Range and Introduction:** Quackgrass is native to Eurasia and was introduced in the 1600's in contaminated seed. It has likely spread throughout the northern United States by the same vector along with contaminated hay and grass clippings.

**Description:** Perennial grass species that can grow to three feet tall and reproduces by seeds, rhizomes, and root segments. It has a fibrous root system, but also produces a yellowish-white, sharp pointed rhizomes. Leaves are ¼ to ½ wide and have hairs on the edge of the leaf. Near the tip of the leaf, there will be a constriction point which appears somewhat like a "W". Spikelets are arranged in two rows on each side of the top of the stem. Many people in northeast Wyoming think they have crabgrass, but it almost always is this species.

**Ecological and Economical Threats:** Ecological is a hardy species that will form dense patches that push out native and desirable species, which can lower biodiversity. Economical, it can invade lawns quickly and be very costly to eradicate. Also, is a known weed of some crops especially cereal grains, where it can reduce yields up to 95%.

**Regulated Status in Wyoming:** Quackgrass is on the State Designated Noxious Species List and is also on the North American Invasive Species Management Association Weed Free Forage Noxious Species List that Wyoming uses for weed free forage standards.

**Distribution in Wyoming:** This species is found in every county in Wyoming.

### **Control Options:**

**Mechanical:** Not a great option, as the species can regrow from root segments, continued treatment may show decent results. Mowing can prevent seed production

**Chemical:** No herbicides label for cool season lawns (which is what we have in Wyoming), Beyond (Imazamox) could work in some crops, and Paramount (Quinclorac) could be used in ROW or Industrial applications.

**Cultural:** No real standalone options in the lawn situation, crops you could rotate to a broadleaf species(alfalfa), so treatment could be done with a grass herbicide.

**Integrated Weed Management:** In a lawn situation, your best bet is to carefully apply RoundUp (Glyphosate) to only the quackgrass, wait until the plant has died (> 10 days), then dig up the plant along with all root segments, and replant with perennial turf grass seed or sod would even be better.

### **Online Resources:**

URL: <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/quackgrass.shtml>

URL: <http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/3726/aqb>

URL: <http://extension.psu.edu/pests/weeds/control/quackgrass-management-an-integrated-approach>

Image 1 URL: <https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=1459496>

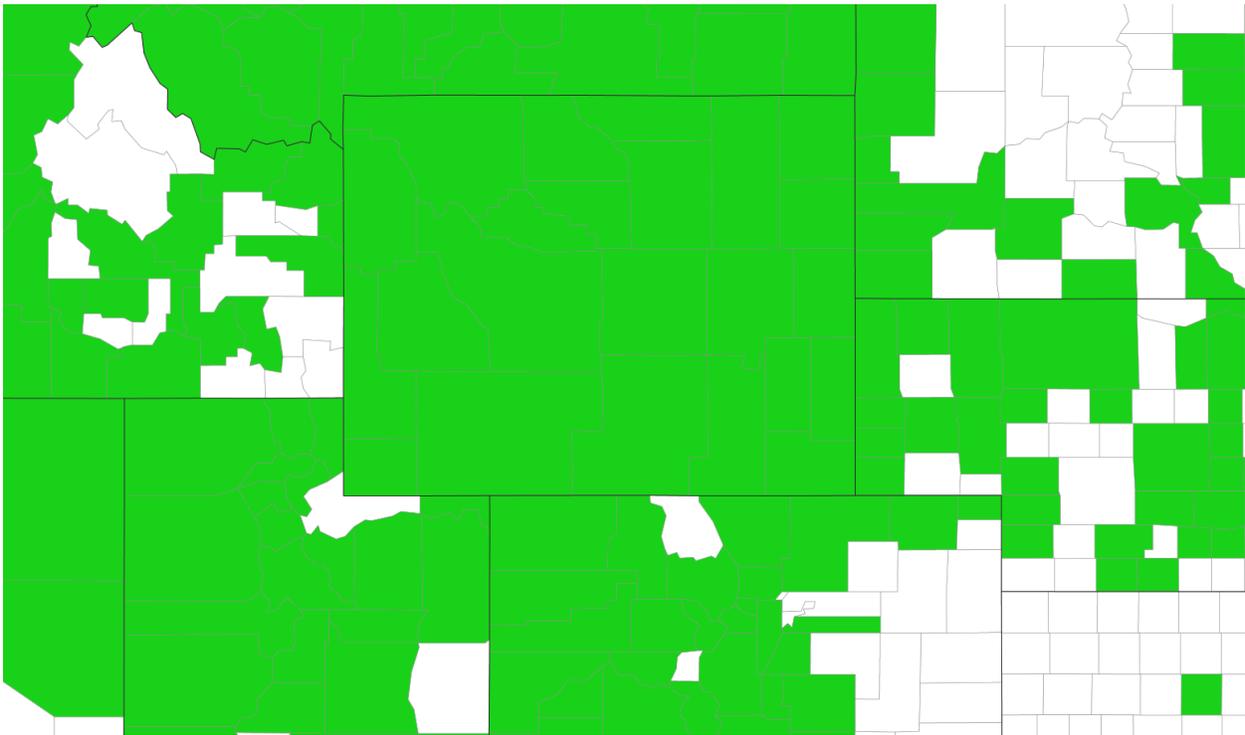
Image 2 URL: <https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=1617103>



*Image 1-Seed Head*



*Image 2-Early Growth*



*Figure 1-Quackgrass Distribution in Wyoming and Surrounding States*  
URL: <http://www.eddmaps.org/distribution/uscounty.cfm?sub=5579>