

GASTON GROWER SPOTLIGHT- February 2021



Rough Stalk Bluegrass (*Poa trivialis*)

Yellowing Tall Fescue

February, Showing the Lawn Some Love

February is a month in which we celebrate love, unfortunately it can also be a month that is very unforgiving on turfgrass. This spotlight will highlight a few issues lawn professionals have shared with extension so far this year. This year has had a relatively wet start and when temperatures dip down like they tend to do in January and February cool season turf like tall fescue will show signs of winter damage (pictured above). The yellowing on the tips of tall fescue is a result of frost damage and established fescue will usually grow out of it once it warms up. Turf in wet soils particularly in low spots in the lawn may also be fully yellow due to

temporary anaerobic soil conditions. Supersaturated soils limit oxygen availability and nutrient uptake in your turf, extended periods of wet soils can result in plant death. With our wet weather patterns early this year your lawn is not going to uptake nutrients as well until we dry up. It will pay off for you to wait until soils dry before performing a March fertilizer application on tall fescue to bring it out of its yellow state.

The wet weather may not be favorable for desired turf but rough stalk bluegrass (pictured above) and annual bluegrass often thrive in these conditions. *Poa trivialis* may be one of the hardest to control weeds in warm and cool season turf, with non-selective herbicides being the only control route. Annual bluegrass is more manageable in warm season turfgrass types but for tall fescue a pre-emergent strategy in fall and skipping overseeding may prove to be the most effective strategy. Here is a link to [control information for annual bluegrass](#). Always remember Cooperative Extension of Gaston County is here to help guide you on the best practices for loving your lawn.



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