

QUACKGRASS

HOW TO IDENTIFY?

- Grass blades are wide and feel slightly rough.
- Roots are yellowish-white with fibrous roots attached.
- Likely taller than other grasses.

IS THIS PERENNIAL A PROBLEM?

- **YES.** It spreads aggressively and chokes out other plants.
- Livestock can eat it, but it's a troublesome weed in gardens.
- Can spread **3 metres** a year!

HOW DOES IT GROW?

- Usually in clumps.
- Can grow from seeds.
- Roots spread horizontally.
- Doesn't like shade.
- Likes moisture and disturbed soil, but is **DROUGHT TOLERANT.**
- Roots form mats, but don't grow as deep as some other weeds.



Elytrigia repens

HOW TO CONTROL?

- **COVER well** with layers of cardboard, old leaves, mulch; weed out any quackgrass that makes its way through the layers.
- Kill small patches with **HOT WATER.**
- Can be successfully controlled if weeded **REPEATEDLY.** Make sure to get all the roots because small pieces of root can grow new plants.
- Where appropriate, plant shrubs or trees to create shade.
- To combat in lawns, maintain healthy lawn and overseed.
- Carefully timed and repeated tilling can work, **BUT** tilling can increase problems.

Sources: British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries. *Guide to Weeds in British Columbia*, 2002.
Royer, F. and Dickinson, R. *Weeds of Canada and the Northern United States*. 1999.
Parish, Coupe, and Lloyd. *Plants of the Southern Interior and Inland Northwest*, 1996.

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