

Guineagrass, narrow leaf panicum (*Panicum maximum*)

By Stephen H. Futch, David W. Hall and Brent Sellers

Life cycle: annual or perennial; with two forms

Roots: fibrous

Plant height: annual form up to 16 feet; perennial form up to 5 feet

Leaf: Blade: light green, flat; annual form usually three-quarter inch up to 1 ¾ inches in width; perennial form up to one-half inch wide; both up to 30 inches long, hairy. Sheath: hairy or smooth. Ligule: small membrane, fringed with tiny hairs

Stem: annual form densely tufted; perennial form usually bending and rooting at nodes

Seed head: large, to 2 feet long with spreading branches; lowest branches always whorled

Seeds: fruit can be hairy or smooth; grain small, with fine wrinkles, one-eighth inch long

Propagated by: seeds and, rarely, stolons

Growth characteristics: difficult to control as plants become large and mature. Annual forms tufted and erect. Perennial forms bending, rooting and prolifically branching at nodes; can literally fill a citrus tree with its branches, even growing out of the top of the tree. Perennial form looks like annual form, but leaves only one-half inch wide or less.

Control: Products that contain bromacil, indaziflam, norflurazone, pendimethalin and simazine provide pre-emergence control of guineagrass. For postemergence control, products containing fluazifop or sethoxydim, when combined with proper adjuvant, will provide control with

greater activity on earlier stages of development as compared to treatment of mature plants. Glyphosate at 3 quarts/acre provides good to excellent activity on small plants. Retreatment is often necessary for control of mature plants.

Stephen H. Futch is a multi-county Extension agent at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred; David W. Hall is a retired botanist with the University of Florida departments of botany and natural sciences in Gainesville; Brent Sellers is a University of Florida associate professor at the Range Cattle Research and Education Center at Ona.



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