Less commonly used turfgrass species may be the best choice in some cases. The following sections cover some of these grasses, including annual ryegrass (Lolium multiflorum), roughstalk bluegrass (Poa trivialis), supina bluegrass (Poa supina), annual bluegrass (Poa annua) and zoysiagrass (Zoysia spp.)
Annual ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*), also called Italian ryegrass, is a cool-season species that has aggressive seedling growth. It outcompetes desirable species during establishment, but it is not tolerant of temperature extremes and usually dies out after one season. Used for overseeding dormant bermudagrass in the south, its practical use in our climate is limited to areas where temporary turf cover is desired or as a nurse grass for the desired species. When appearance of temporary turf is important, improved varieties such as ‘Axcella’ and ‘Candidame’ are darker green and finer textured than common types.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Of note...</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Annual ryegrass seed is cheap and often found in poor quality seed mixes. Common varieties include ‘Gulf’ and ‘Panterra’.</td>
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<td>2. Intermediate ryegrass is a hybrid between annual ryegrass and perennial ryegrass. Developed to combine superior turf qualities of perennial ryegrass with rapid germination and establishment of annual ryegrass, its primary use is as a temporary cover.</td>
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Roughstalk bluegrass (**Poa trivialis**) is a light green, cool-season turfgrass that spreads by lateral creeping stems called stolons. Adapted to wet, shaded areas, it may be planted as a desirable turfgrass in such sites. However, it can become a significant weed problem in sunny sites where it thins out and turns brown during summer drought. In wet years it appears as puffy patches that are prone to scalping. Introduction of *Poa trivialis* could be the result of contaminated seed, native plants, or from dormant seeds or stolons in the soil that reestablish under favorable growing conditions.

Of note...


2. Regardless of the source, once an infestation occurs *Poa trivialis* is difficult to get rid of. There are no selective chemical controls, so renovation following removal with a non-selective herbicide may be the best option.
Supina bluegrass (*Poa supina*) is a cool-season species with aggressive stoloniferous growth. It is adapted to moist, cool climates and has excellent traffic tolerance and good shade tolerance. These characteristics make it an option for athletic fields, particularly if they are in shady sites. Seed is expensive and may be prohibitive for seeding 100% *Poa supina*. However, it can be included at rates between 5 - 25% (by weight) as part of a mixture with Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, or both. Properly managed, the aggressive growth habit of *Poa supina* will eventually dominate the stand.

Of note...

1. Common on sports fields in Europe, it is not widely used in the US.
2. It is lighter green than most varieties of Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass and will be visible in a mixed stand.
3. Excessive thatch will develop if not managed properly.
4. Does best at lower mow heights, 0.75 - 1.5”.
5. Improved varieties include Supra and Supranova.
Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) is a widely distributed cool-season grass that is considered a weed in most turf situations. It often becomes a significant part, or even the primary species, in turf stands. Difficult to control once it becomes established, turfgrass professionals may have no choice but to manage it as a desirable species. *Poa annua* var. *reptans* is a perennial-type that persists under close mowing and frequent irrigation and is more commonly found in golf turf. Perennial-types are sometimes called creeping bluegrass. There are improved varieties of creeping bluegrass available, including ‘Two-Putt’.

**Of note…**

1. Annual bluegrass is a prolific producer of seed, even under extremely low mowing heights.

2. Thrives in cool weather, but dies back under summer stress times of heat and drought.

3. While rarely planted on purpose in northern climates, seed is available.
Zoysiagrass (Zoysia spp.) is a warm-season perennial turfgrass that spreads by both stolons and rhizomes. It has good traffic and drought tolerance. *Zoysia japonica* is winter hardy, but not recommended due to its prolonged dormancy in our relatively short growing season. Zoysiagrass goes dormant with the first frost and remains dormant until well into the spring. It is usually established by sprigs, plugs or sod. Seed is available for some varieties, but germination and establishment is slow. Improved varieties of *Zoysia japonica* include ‘Meyer’, ‘Compadre’, ‘SR 9200’ and ‘Zenith’.

Of note...

1. Native to southeast Asia, zoysiagrass was introduced to the United States in 1895.

2. It is well-adapted to the transition zone and deep south where it is used in residential and commercial landscapes, athletic fields and golf course tees, fairways and roughs.

3. *Zoysia japonica*, also called Japanese or Korean lawn grass, is the mostly widely used species in the US.

4. *Zoysia matrella*, also called manilagrass, is less cold tolerant and slower growing than *Zoysia japonica*. 

Native to southeast Asia, zoysiagrass was introduced to the United States in 1895. It is well-adapted to the transition zone and deep south where it is used in residential and commercial landscapes, athletic fields and golf course tees, fairways and roughs. *Zoysia japonica*, also called Japanese or Korean lawn grass, is the mostly widely used species in the US. *Zoysia matrella*, also called manilagrass, is less cold tolerant and slower growing than *Zoysia japonica*. Zoysiagrass goes dormant with the first frost and remains dormant until well into the spring. It is usually established by sprigs, plugs or sod. Seed is available for some varieties, but germination and establishment is slow. Improved varieties of *Zoysia japonica* include ‘Meyer’, ‘Compadre’, ‘SR 9200’ and ‘Zenith’.


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