

Large crabgrass

Digitaria sanguinalis (L.) Scop.

Life cycle

Prostrate to ascending summer annual.

Leaves

Both leaf surfaces and sheath are densely hairy. Leaves are rolled in the bud and more numerous at the base. Leaves are generally shorter, wider and more tapered than those of most other grasses.

Ligule

Jagged, membranous ligule.



Large crabgrass seedling.

Stems

Prostrate to ascending stems up to 3 feet tall are capable of rooting at the nodes. Mature stems are often compressed in cross-section.



Large crabgrass collar region.

Flowers and fruit

The seedhead is a terminal panicle that consists of a few to several slender, fingerlike branches arranged in a whorl. Each plant is capable of producing thousands of yellowish brown, narrow oval to lance-shaped seeds.

Reproduction

Seeds.



Large crabgrass seedhead.

Large crabgrass

Digitaria sanguinalis (L.) Scop.

Similar weeds

Smooth crabgrass (*Digitaria ischaemum* [Schreb.] Schreb. ex Muhl.)

Differs by having a smaller stature, hairless to sparsely hairy leaves and sheath, a tuft of long hairs at the collar region and stems that do not root at the nodes.



Left, smooth crabgrass collar region.



Below, smooth crabgrass plant.