

Barnyardgrass

Echinochloa crus-galli

Description

Considered one of the world's worst weeds, it reduces crop yields and causes forage crops to fail by removing up to 80% of the available soil nitrogen.

Habit

Annual, tufted, with fibrous roots. Can grow up to 5 feet tall and are highly variable in appearance.

Leaves

Flat, glabrous, elongate, 30-50 cm long and 1-2 cm wide. Scabrous, slightly thickened at margin; ligules absent; sheaths smooth, lower ones often reddish; panicle 8-30 cm long, green or purple, exerted, somewhat nodding, densely branched. The branches are 5 cm long, erect or ascending sessile.

Stems

Erect to decumbent, 0.8-1.5 meters tall, rather thick, branching at the base.





Flowers

Range from 2.5-10 inches long and consist of branches densely clustered with knotlike flowers. The flower head is erect or droops and is sometimes purplish. Blooms from June through October.

Fruits and Seeds

Caryopses are 1.3-2.2 mm long, 1-1.8 mm wide, ovoid or oblong and brownish in color.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Found in fields, roadsides, gardens and disturbed ground; often in moist meadows, on exposed shores and river banks, etc.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Jungle rice (*Echinochloa colona*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pulling has been shown to be useful in control. Effectively controlled using the general use herbicide. Rotation of herbicide use is key to prevention and treatment.

Credits

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