

Green foxtail

Setaria viridis

Description

Habit

Tufted annual grass with many culms, erect and growing up to 70 cm tall.

Leaves

Alternate, 1.5-12 in. long, lance-linear, flat, hairless, smooth to slightly rough, 4-25 mm. wide depending on variety, sheath is open, green in color, hairless except for a fringe of hairs along edge, Ligule is a fringe of hairs 1-2 mm. long. Hairless and green to purplish nodes.

Stems

Smooth, multiple and branching from base, erect to ascending, lower stem often prostrate then rising at lower node, does not root at the node. Forms loose to dense clumps.

Flowers

Singular, densely packed, cylindrical, spike-like





panicle at the tip of the stem. Straight to slightly nodding and 1-3 in. long or strongly noddings and 3-8 in. long depending on variety. Clusters of 2-6 spikelets that are densely crowded on short branches along panicle. Spikelets are flat on one side, oval-elliptic, 1.5-2.5 mm. long. Bristles are green or purple in color, soft with minute, upward pointing barbs.

Fruits and Seeds

Glumes and sterile lemma become tan in color and papery as they mature. Lemma and palea harden and turn dark brown in color. Entire spikelet drops when mature leaving bristles behind.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Can be found growing in cultivated fields, gardens, waste places, disturbed areas and roadsides.

Reproduction

Only by seed. Seeds are capable of germinating as soon as they are shed by the plant.

Similar

Japanese bristlegrass (

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Can be controlled by normal tillage practices. Dense planting and increased nutrients can also reduce populations. Susceptible to a wide variety of standard use herbicides recommended for annual grass control such as glyphosate. There are some populations that have become herbicide resistant.



Midwest Invasive Species
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