

## Bulbous bluegrass

### *Poa bulbosa*

#### Description

Introduced from Europe as a forage grass to the Pacific Northwest.

#### Habit

Tuft- or sod-forming grass sometimes described as a perennial, an annual and an annual with "perennial tendencies".

#### Leaves

Mostly basal or on lower stem, up to 4 in. long, 1-2.5 mm wide, hairless, folded or flat, and boat-shaped at the tip. Sheaths hairless with fused edges. Ligule is 2-4 mm long, blunt to pointed at the tip with smooth nodes.

#### Stems

Erect or spreading from the base and rising at a lower node. Unbranched, hairless, clump-forming. Base is thickened, forming a bulb.

#### Flowers

Open to compact branching cluster, 6 in. long,





branches spreading to ascending to erect. Spikelets are single at the tips of short branchlets, green to purple in color, 2-7 florets that are elongated bulbets, up to 20 mm long.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

Bulblets turn dark purplish at the base and greee to purple on the elongated tip. Shed individually. Seeds seldom produced. Bulblets can take root immediately.

### **Habitat**

Native to Europe. Can be found growing in roadsides, fields, open woods, lawns, waste areas and other disturbed areas.

### **Reproduction**

Reproduces from bulblets which sprout from the parent plant and from basal bulbs.

### **Similar**

Native onion species (*Allium* spp.)

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Hand-pulling can be effective but is difficult to remove all bulbs. Mowing is now considered to be effective but can be controlled with early season cultivation or tillage. Can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate and imazapyr.

### **Credits**

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