

MATGRASS

Nardus stricta

Poaceae, the grass family

Category: Control

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FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Matgrass is a long-lived invasive grass that is not palatable to most livestock, giving it a competitive advantage in grazing pastures by allowing it to eliminate desirable native grasses and reduce biodiversity.
- Infested pastures become less productive and the forage value significantly decreases.
- It is challenging to eliminate because of the difficulty identifying it amongst other grasses in mixed grass stands.

Description

- Perennial bunchgrass that can grow tufts up to 3 feet wide and stem up to 8 inches tall.
- Fibrous roots.
- Wiry, bluish-green leaves extending up to 16 inches long appear narrow or cylindrical due to tightly folded blades. Lower leaves bend at right angle to stem.
- Small, slender, straw-colored spikelets exist only on one side of the stem and are tipped with short, straight awns.

Introduction and Movement

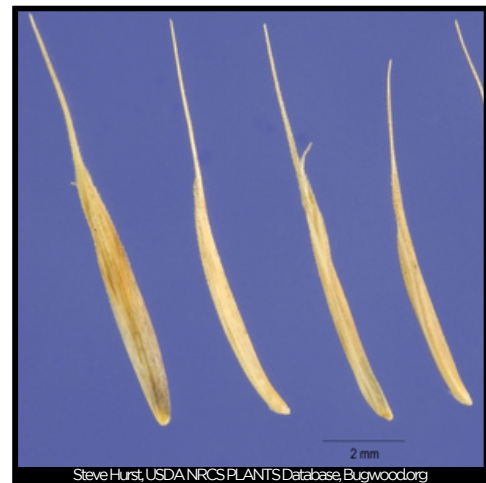
- Matgrass is native to Eastern Europe, the Caucasus Mountains and Siberia.
- Inhabits moist sites such as near meadows, swamps, estuaries, and watercourses.
- It is primarily spread by mat fragments and plant tufts sticking to hooves of grazing animals and dispersing it to new locations. It has also been thought to have spread by seeds becoming lodged in the feathers of a geese that migrated from Siberia.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Matgrass and eradicate infestations on your property.
- Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To: **KNOCK IT OFF!**

Sources

- Invasive Plant Atlas of the U.S.: <https://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=6076>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



MATGRASS DISTRIBUTION MAP

