

MILIUM

Milium vernale
Poaceae, the grass family
Category: Containment

USDA APHIS PPQ - Oxford, North Carolina, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Milium is a fast growing grass that is often associated with winter wheat production.
- It competes with wheat for light, nutrients, and moisture, degrading pastures and reducing crop yields.

Description

- Winter, annual grass growing up to 2.5 feet tall.
- Fibrous roots.
- Flat leaves grow to ¼ inch wide and 4 inches long with veins and margins appearing roughened.
- Membranous ligules are ¼ inch long and lack auricles.
- Panicles are open, sparse, bright green to purplish, and up to 8 inches long.
- Seeds are hard and shiny.

Introduction and Movement

- Milium is native to southern Europe and western Asia and was likely introduced to the U.S. as a seed contaminant.
- Inhabits cultivated land such as wheat fields, as well as pastures and rangelands.
- The seeds can easily be dispersed by wind, water, and by hitching a ride on harvesting and grain transportation equipment.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Milium 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

- Frasier Valley Invasive Species Society: <https://fviss.ca/invasive-plant/spring-milletgrass>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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MILIUM DISTRIBUTION MAP

