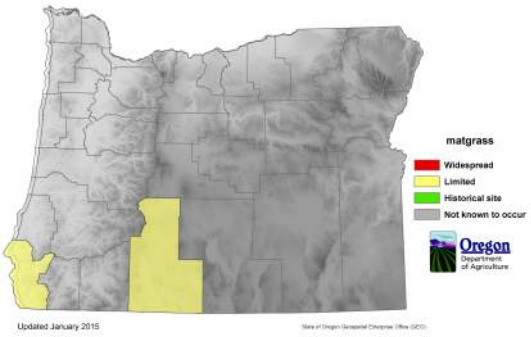
Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

Matgrass
Nardus stricta

Other common names: moor matgrass, nard grass

USDA symbol: NAST3
ODA rating: A and T



Introduction: Matgrass is native to Eastern Europe. It reproduces mostly through transport of tufts in mud clinging to the hooves of grazing animals.

Distribution in Oregon: The only known population in Oregon occurs in Klamath County; reported in 1962 at Fort Klamath though a herbarium record has emerged indicating that the species is also established at the Cape Blanco airport.

Impacts: Matgrass is an uncommon non-native grass with the potential to out-compete desirable grasses in intensively grazed areas. Because it is a species of low palatability it is not favored by grazing animals, giving matgrass a competitive edge. It is difficult to eliminate because it is tricky to locate in mixed grass stands. Untreated plants develop seeds and perpetuate infestations for decades. It occurs in damp areas near swamps, estuaries and watercourses. Generally found in seasonally saturated mountain meadows.

Description: Matgrass is a slow growing perennial bunchgrass that is densely tufted and long-lived. It produces unbranched flower-spikes that carry the single-flowered spikelets along one side. Leaves are hard and bristle-like, bluish-green and up to 1/4 inch wide, appearing narrower because blades are tightly folded along the mid-rib. Stems are tipped by inconspicuous spikes that bear all spikelets on one side of the stems and grow up to eight inches tall. This grass is tightly rooted therefore hard to remove.

Biological controls: Biological control agents are not used on "A" listed weeds in Oregon. This weed is being managed for eradication or containment.

Oregon Department of Agriculture • Noxious Weed Control Program
635 Capitol Street NE • Salem, OR 97301 • 503-986-4621
www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx

Photos by Bob Barrett, Jo Davis, and Tim Butler, ODA