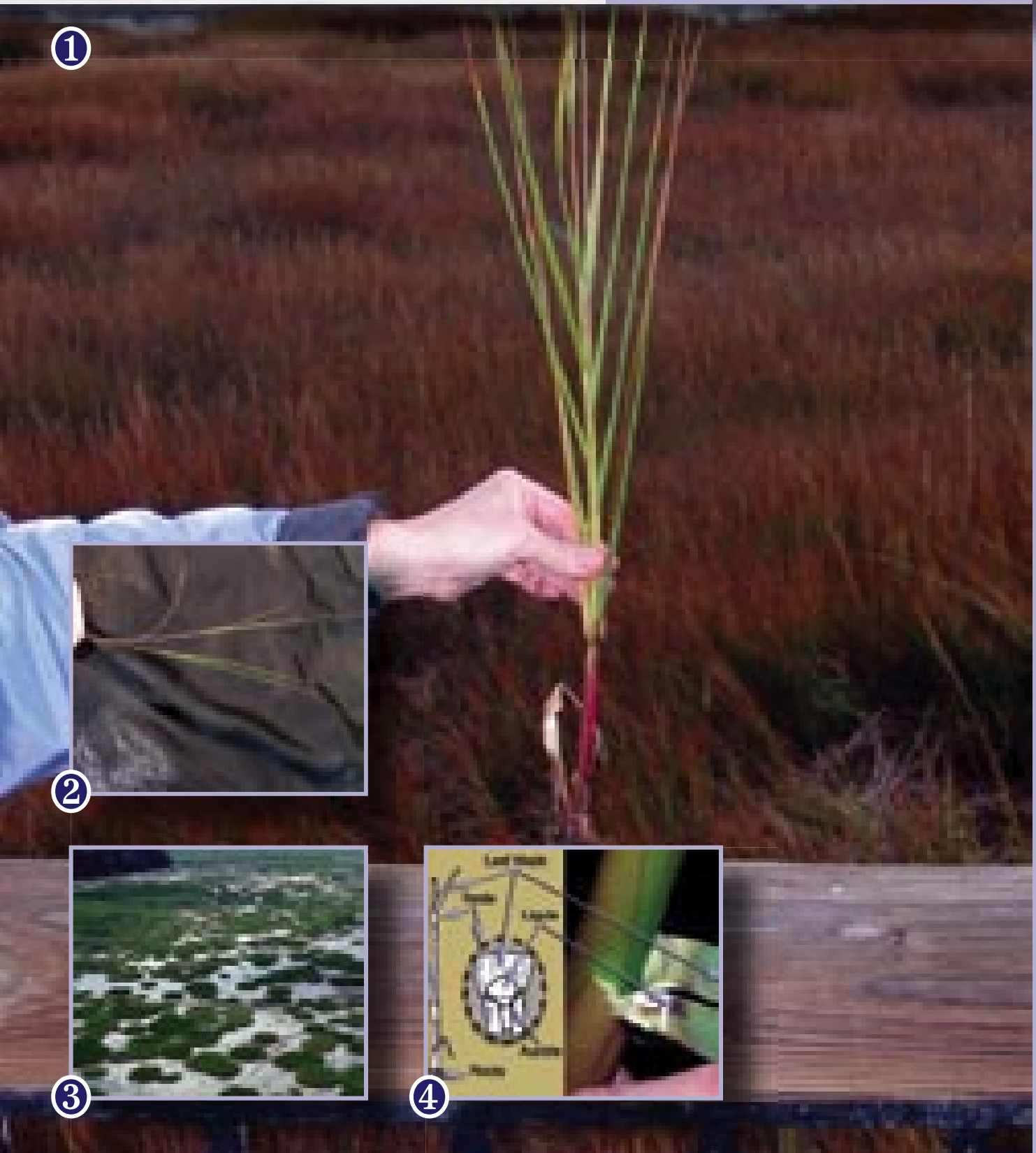
Cordgrasses

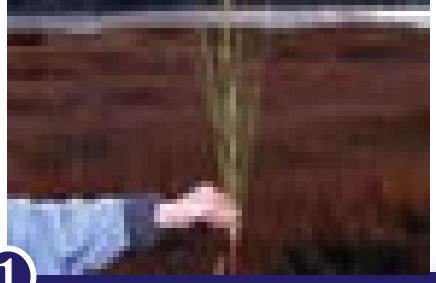
Spartina spp.

1. Tom Forney, ODA
2. Tom Forney, ODA
3. F. Grevstad, Univ. of WA
4. ODA
5. F. Grevstad, Univ. of WA
6. ODA



Cordgrasses

Spartina spp.



OR
WA

1

Description

Perennial grass 2 to 8 feet tall. Stems round and hollow between each node. Leaf blades sharply pointed at tips and do not have a midrib. Ligule, where leaf blade joins stem, consists of a fringe of hairs. Flower spikes occur late summer to fall. Grows in intertidal estuarine habitats (not in freshwater) and develops into large circular patches. Poaceae family.

Impacts

Cordgrasses threaten the diversity and health of estuaries in a variety of ways. By growing in dense patches, clones can reduce feeding areas for shorebirds, crabs, and other animals. Closely spaced stems trap sediment, raising the elevation of the marsh and altering hydrology in ways that could lead to flooding upstream.

P. marginata

5

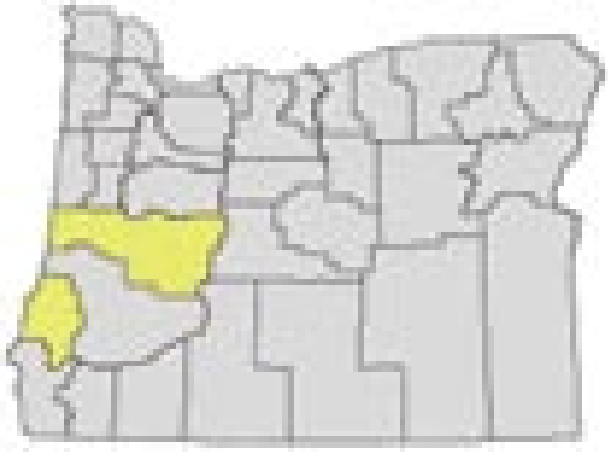
Biological controls

6

A plant hopper, *Prokelisia marginata*, is established in California and Washington, where spartina is abundant.

Distribution in Oregon

PLEASE CALL 1-866-INVADER IF YOU FIND THIS SPECIES IN OREGON.



Limited Abundant Not known to be present

2007

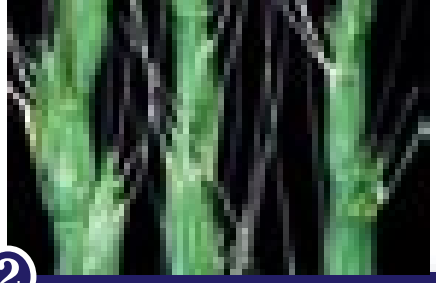
Barbed goatgrass

Aegilops triuncialis

1. Ken French, ODA
2. Barry A. Rice, The Nature Conservancy
3. Jose Hernandez, USDA-ARS
4. John M. Randall, The Nature Conservancy
5. ODA

Barbed goatgrass

Aegilops triuncialis



CA
OR

2

Description

Annual grass; grows 8 to 16 inches tall with few to many culms. Leaf sheaths contain white hairs when young, becoming more or less smooth once matured. Blades rigid, sharp, pointed, and spreading. Grain ¼ inch long, resembling a wheat kernel. Poaceae family.

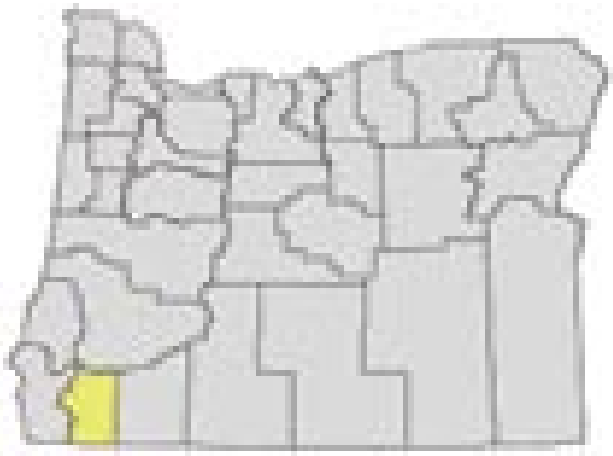
Impacts

Goatgrasses are rangeland and dryland crop invaders. This species, aside from dominating dryland pastures in California, readily crosses with wheat, producing sterile seed and an unmarketable product. *Aegilops* spp. are closely related to wheat, making selective control of goatgrass difficult in cereal crop production.

Distribution in Oregon

PLEASE CALL 1-866-INVADER IF YOU FIND THIS SPECIES IN OREGON.

5



Limited Abundant Not known to be present

2007

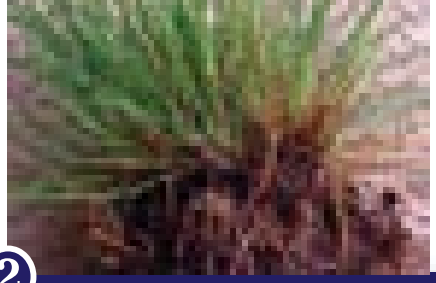
Matgrass

Nardus stricta

1. Bob Barrett, ODA
2. Tim Butler, ODA
3. Steve Hurst @ NRCS PLANTS
4. ODA

Matgrass

Nardus stricta



ID
OR

2

Description

Perennial slow growing bunchgrass; flowers early to mid June in south central Oregon. Tufts up to 3 feet wide and 8 inches high. Leaves grasslike, up to ¼ inch wide, appearing narrower because blades are tightly folded along midrib. Stems tipped by inconspicuous spikes that bear all spikelets on 1 side of stem. Tufts tightly rooted and hard to remove. Poaceae family.

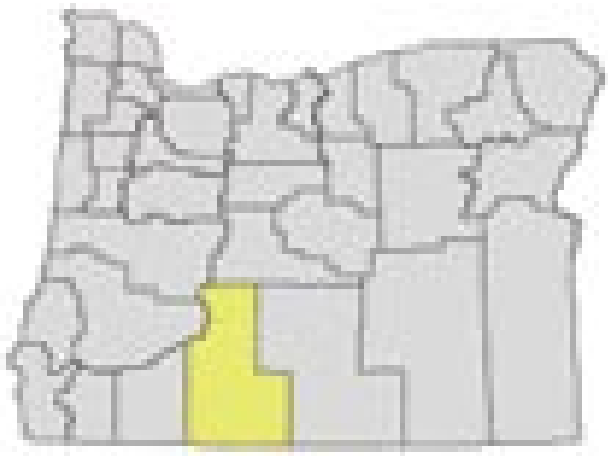
Impacts

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 of the difficulty locating it in mixed grass stands. Untreated plants develop seeds and perpetuate infestations for decades.

Distribution in Oregon

4

PLEASE CALL 1-866-INVADER IF YOU FIND THIS SPECIES IN OREGON.



Limited Abundant Not known to be present

2007

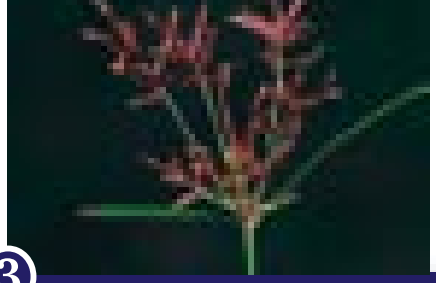
Purple nutsedge

Cyperus rotundus

1. Richard Old, xidservices.com
2. Richard Old, xidservices.com
3. James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service
4. Charles T. Bryson, USDA ARS
5. USDA-NRCS PLANTS

Purple nutsedge

Cyperus rotundus



CA
OR
WA

3

Description

Perennial; grows 1 to 2 feet high. Stems 3 cornered and generally longer than basal leaves. Leaves grass-like, 1/8 to 1/3 inch wide and 2 to 6 inches in length. Inflorescence consists of numerous purple spikelets. Underground tubers oblong, covered by persistent reddish scales and often formed in chains. Cyperaceae family.

Impacts

Purple nutsedge was introduced to the US from Europe and can be found on virtually every continent. It is considered one of the world's top 10 agricultural weeds. This plant thrives in moist conditions, most notably in sandy soils found on river bottoms. It forms nut-like turions which resist herbicide treatments and tillage. In infested countries, it is commonly found in turf, ornamental areas, cultivated fields, and ditch banks.

Distribution in the US

5

PLEASE CALL 1-866-INVADER IF YOU FIND THIS SPECIES IN OREGON.

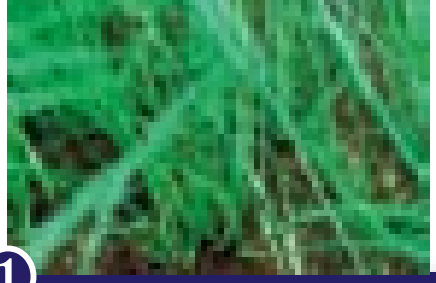
Serrated tussock

Nassella trichotoma

1. USDA APHIS PPQ
2. USDA APHIS PPQ
3. USDA APHIS PPQ
4. USDA-NRCS PLANTS

Serrated tussock

Nassella trichotoma



US

1

Description

Perennial grass. Blades numerous, thin, fine, and tightly-rolled, appearing circular in cross-section with very tiny serrations. Blades green in summer, yellow-green in winter and tips of old blades bleached. Flowering stems branched, initially erect, longer than blades and droop to the ground at maturity. Flower and seedling heads dark purple. Seed head breaks off whole each year. Has a deep fibrous root system. Poaceae family.

Impacts

Infestations of serrated tussock result in a significant loss in livestock production, reducing value of grazing lands. Dense infestations may completely dominate pastures. This plant reduces biodiversity in native grasslands, and creates a fire hazard in urban areas. Each mature plant can produce more than 140,000 seeds per year that can be blown by wind over long distances. Serrated tussock builds large seed banks in the soil. Most seed dies within three years, although some may stay viable for decades. Control is very difficult and costly.

4

Distribution in the US