

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

Barbed goatgrass
Aegilops triuncialis

Other common names:

USDA symbol: AETR
ODA rating: A and T



Introduction: Barbed goatgrass is native to Western Asia and Mediterranean Europe. Barbed goatgrass is well adapted to a wide variety of climatic conditions: dry cold to dry heat to seasonally moist areas. This invasive grass is tolerant of serpentine soil and grows in hard, shallow, dry, gravelly soils. The only known infestation in Oregon is in the Illinois Valley, near Rough and Ready Creek, in Josephine County. This infestation is under eradication by the state.

Distribution in Oregon: The only known site is in Josephine County at Cave Junction, documented in 2003.

Description: Annual; 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. The blades are rigid, sharp, and spreading. Immature spikes are often reddish or purplish. Mature spikes are cylindrical and disperse from the parent plant as joined units at maturity, eventually breaking down to release their seeds. Grains are 1/4 inch long, resembling a wheat kernel.

Impacts: Barbed goatgrass is an annual that invades rangeland, grasslands, and oak woodlands. This species is highly invasive in northern California. When mature, it is unpalatable to livestock and can cause injury to grazing animals. Goatgrass infestations can reduce forage quality and quantity by 50 to 75 percent. Because livestock tend to avoid this weedy grass dense stands form that push out natives and desirable forage. Barbed goatgrass is an agricultural concern since it can readily cross with wheat, producing sterile seed and unmarketable wheat.

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