

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: Until 2015, the only known population in Oregon occurred in Klamath County; reported in 1962 at Fort Klamath. Four additional populations have been found in Curry (Cape Blanco State Airport/Blacklock Point), Coos County (Devil's Kitchen entrance within the Bandon State Natural Area and Bandon Wayside) and Clatsop County (Gearhart area north of Seaside). Matgrass occurs in areas where water pools, as is the case in pastures, meadows, and bogs.

Impacts: Matgrass is an uncommon non-native grass with the potential to out-compete desirable grasses and forbs. Because it is a species of low palatability it is not favored by grazing livestock or wildlife giving matgrass a competitive edge. Impacts to coastal habitats are less well known, but early surveys reveal an aggressive invader that pushes out native flora. One of the challenges in controlling matgrass is identifying it amongst other native or desirable forage species. Untreated plants develop seeds and perpetuate infestations for decades.

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. Coastal populations of matgrass appear to grow taller in such a manner that blades fall over and are less stiff in texture.

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

