

Barnyardgrass

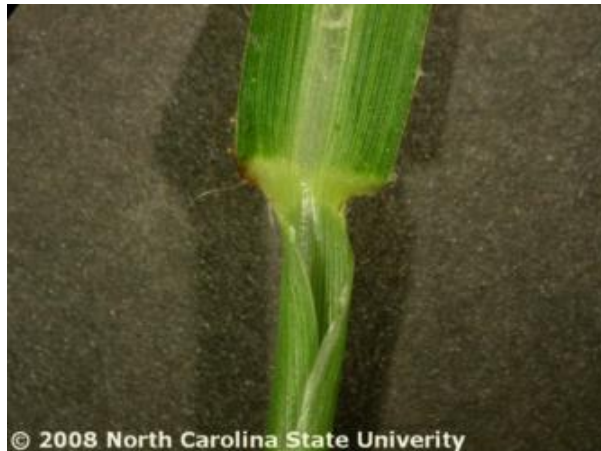
[*Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.) Beauv.]

DESCRIPTION

Barnyardgrass is an upright summer annual weed of turfgrass. It is found in moist, disturbed sites, marshes, and wet turf areas. Barnyardgrass can most easily be distinguished from other grasses by its seedhead, and the fact that it has no ligule.



Characteristic	Description
Seedhead / Flower	panicle; seedhead often purple, spikelets end in a bristle
Vernation Type	leaves rolled in the bud
Ligule Type	absent
Growth Season / Life Cycle	summer annual weed
Auricle Type	absent
Leaf Blade Tip Shape	sharp-pointed; edges rough, blades all in same plane
Leaf Blade Width	0.4 - 0.8 inches (10 - 20 mm) wide
Stolon Presence	absent
Rhizome Presence	absent
Collar Type	continuous; may have hair on collar, white band on collar
Sheath Margin	split with overlapping margins
Sheath Type	flattened; sheath occasionally has short hairs; red- to purple-tinged at base



barnyardgrass ligule, auricles, sheath margins



barnyardgrass collar

Note: Still not sure this is the right weed? [The Turf & Weed Identification Decision Aid](#) may help. Check the TurfFiles [glossary](#) for definitions of unfamiliar terms.

CULTURAL CONTROL

These grasses occur infrequently in North Carolina in highly maintained turf but can be common in utility turf, such as along roadsides. Maintaining a dense, healthy turf year round by proper mowing and fertilization helps prevent encroachment and weed establishment.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Barnyardgrass can be controlled with preemergence and postemergence crabgrass herbicides.

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