



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?
It is an Emergent Invasive in Orange County

**BARBED
GOATGRASS**

***Aegilops
triuncialis***

[Known OC Sites & Status Updates](#)

Distribution map & info:

- calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=107
- cal-ipc.org/paf/site/paf/245

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Barbed Goatgrass is a winter-germinating, late-spring-flowering annual grass, native from the Mediterranean area to western Asia. It was introduced to California via cattle from Mexico in the early 20th century.

It is a fast-growing, rapidly spreading invasive species of grasslands, pastures, & oak woodlands, but usually not chaparral. Its fast growth creates a monoculture, outcompeting the other plants in the area. Its ability to invade nutrient-depleted, infertile soils means that it can severely damage habitats that are important refugia for endemic grassland species--which most other invading grasses are unable to exploit.



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The plants are mostly spreading, about 8" to 16" tall. Few to many rigid, loosely erect stems that are solid when young but become hollow with age. Leaf blades are rigid, flat, spreading, about 1/8" wide; lower surface & sometimes upper surface sparsely covered with fine hairs. Sheaths open. Not susceptible to rust.



This weed can directly injure livestock by lodging in their eyes or mouths. Most grazing animals tend to avoid it because they do not like its taste. It cross breeds with different types of wheat, causing the grain to become infertile and unusable for harvest,

Flowers May-July; rigid cylindrical flower spikes have three to six spikelets bearing long, stiff awns. Immature spikes often reddish or purplish.

When mature, the whole spikelet falls off to germinate on the ground. Seeds can germinate while in the joints. Germination occurs under a wide range of temperatures. Seedling growth is fastest at about 40-50°F.

Some seeds in joints on the ground survive controlled burns because the outer portions of the joints protect the seeds.

The barbs on the flower spikelets, containing the seeds, become attached easily to fur, clothing, & vehicles which allows the seeds to become widely dispersed.

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IF YOU SEE THIS PLANT AT A SITE THAT'S NOT ON THE LIST:

- Record the plant's location as exactly as you can (GPS coordinates if possible), the date you saw it, and an estimate of how many there were. Include the site's landowner or manager, if known.
- Take identifying photos: the whole plant & its surroundings, closeups of leaves, flowers & fruits/pods.
- If you take a sample, place it immediately into a sealed bag.
- To avoid spreading the plant, check your clothing and shoes thoroughly before leaving the area, and remove and bag all traces of seeds.
- Report the find immediately to **invasives@occnps.org**.