



## EMERGING WEED THREATS

NIAB TAG recognises that transposing a black-grass control programme, whether a chemical or cultural, to other grassweed targets may result in unsatisfactory control. It is critical to correctly identify any new weed to ensure that the measures used to control it are suitable. Initially, it should be the basic cultural control approaches that are reviewed and adapted.

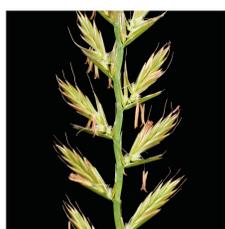
It is important to understand target weeds.

### Italian Rye-grass (*Lolium multiflorum*)

A leafy annual or biennial grass that tillers profusely, so that even very low populations can cause major yield losses. The green leaves are hairless and often appear glossy when viewed within a crop canopy. Germination is heavily weighted to the autumn, with a small proportion emerging in the spring.



Seedling Italian ryegrass



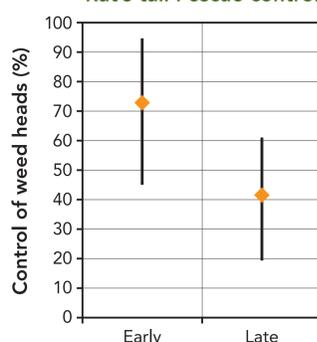
Flowering head of Italian ryegrass

### Rat's-tail Fescue (*Vulpia myuorus*)

A serious weed in herbage crops that has begun to appear more frequently in arable crops. Leaves are narrow and glossy, up to 15 cm in length. The heads are made up of dense panicles, which tinge purple when mature. By using sown populations of these weeds, NIAB TAG is evaluating herbicide products and programmes across a range of species for comparisons. A key factor of control in Rat's-tail Fescue is the size of plant. Figure 1 shows that targeting smaller plants is better, whether at pre-em for residual chemistry, or early autumn for contact material.



Figure 1. The effect of herbicide timing on Rat's-tail Fescue control



### Brome species

There are five main species of brome in the UK that are frequently found in arable fields. To tailor control it is important to understand the differences between the two main sub-groups, which is most distinguishable by the spikelet shape.



Sterile brome



Great brome



Rye brome



Meadow brome



Soft brome

### Umbellifer species

There is a collection of similar species (*Daucus spp.*, *Anthriscus spp.* and *Aethusa spp.*) that are increasingly causing issues within arable fields. The ability to continue aggressive growth, even during the cooler months, makes them particularly difficult to control in the spring, so must be identified early.



Fools parsley



Wild carrot



Bur chervil

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