

EMERGING WEED THREATS

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 leaves are a glossy green colour and broader than black-grass. Germination is heavily weighted to the autumn, with a small proportion emerging in the spring.



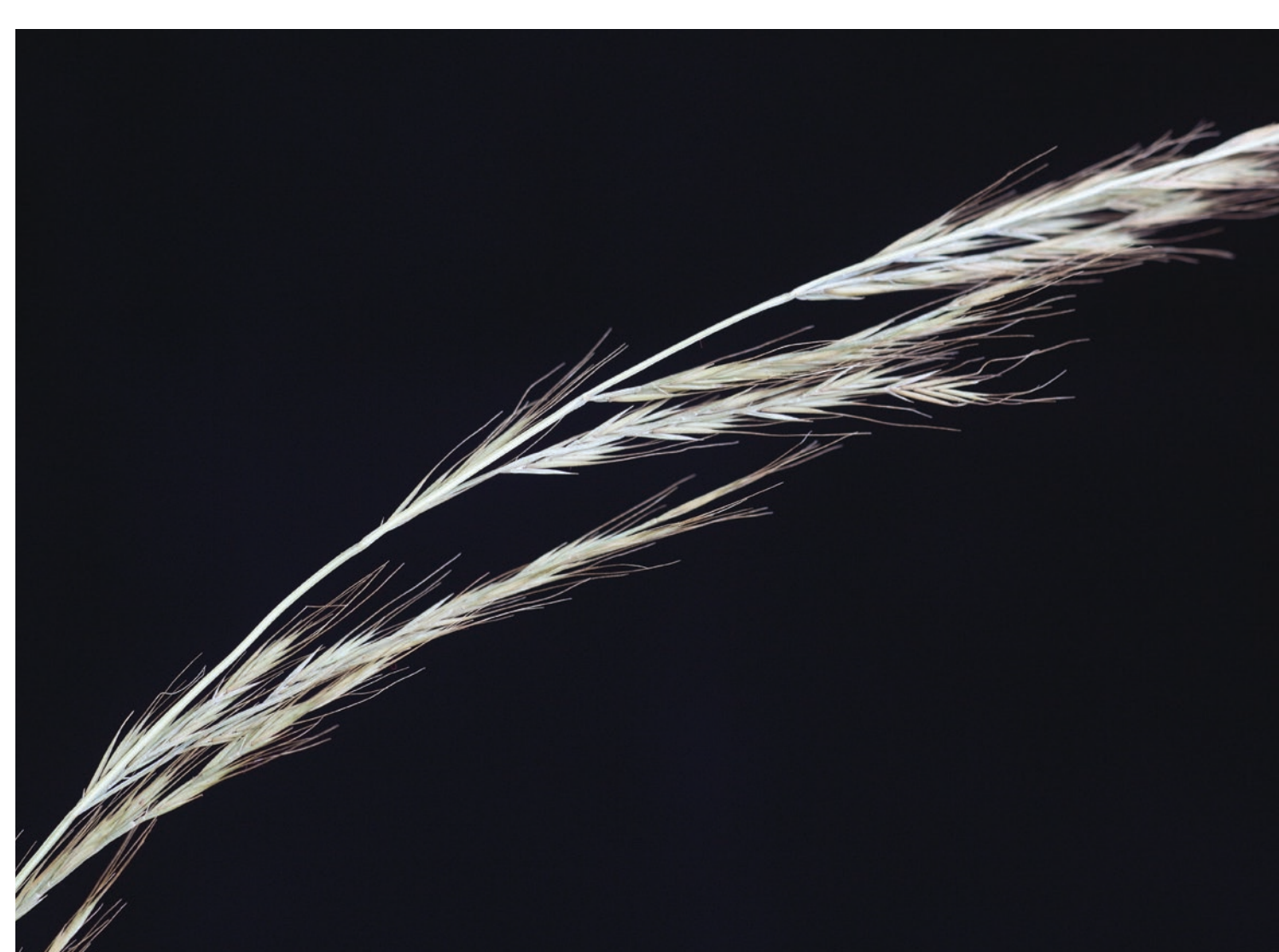
Seedling Italian rye-grass



Flowering head of Italian rye-grass

Rat's-tail Fescue (*Vulpia myuros*)

A serious weed in herbage crops that has begun to appear more frequently in arable crops. Leaves are narrow, tightly rolled, up to 15 cm in length and can appear glossy green. The heads are made up of dense panicles, which tinge purple when mature. By using sown populations of these weeds. A key factor of control in Rat's-tail Fescue is the size of plant.



Rat's-tail Fescue

Alien species

Game cover, cover crops, and wildflower mixes boost biodiversity but can pose weed management risks. Their provenance is not always clear, and species like canary grass, barnyard grass, and thornapple have recently become established. Climate interactions with these unexpected species are not fully understood, and their resistance status is often unknown. Risks can be reduced by sourcing seed mixes from reputable suppliers.



Barnyard grass



Canary grass

Umbellifer species

A collection of similar species 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

