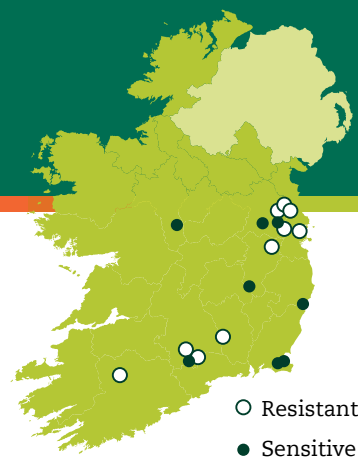


Enable Conservation Tillage

Italian Rye-grass

Italian Rye-grass is present on a small number of farms however, growers who have Italian rye-grass have found this weed extremely difficult to control. In farms where it is present it should be treated as seriously as blackgrass as both have similar biology and a high risk of developing herbicide resistance.



Distribution of Italian Rye-grass resistant tested by Teagasc, Oak Park.

Controlling Italian Rye-grass on your farm

- Every farm should employ a zero tolerance policy with Italian rye-grass.
- Careful observation and vigilance around bio-security will allow hand roguing of any plants (before seed set) entering the farm thus preventing seed return and further populations.
- Where hand roguing is not possible crop destruction before seed set will prevent seed build up. This area should be taken out of crop production for 4-5 years to eliminate the weed from the field/farm



Italian rye-grass

Italian Rye-grass facts

- It has an early autumn emergence pattern, between September and November.
- Seeds have a short dormancy (< 5 years)
- Seed numbers decline rapidly (80% per year) when buried, and seeds do not emerge from >5 cm depth.
- Obligate cross-pollinating – high risk of developing herbicide resistance
- If left uncontrolled, Italian rye-grass can produce up to 5,000 seeds per plant.
- Herbicide resistance is confirmed in Ireland to both ACCase (eg. Axial, Falcon, Stratos Ultra) and ALS (eg. Pacifica, Broadway, Monolith) herbicides
 - » Suspect herbicide resistance in both wild types and varieties

Identification

- Flattened spike heads with spikelets on their edge arranged alternatively on the opposite side of the stem
- Short awns on the spikelet
- Ligule is short (1mm - 2mm)
- Leaves rolled in shoot



Italian Rye-grass auricle



Italian Rye-grass seed



Italian Rye-grass close up



Video: Grass Weed Identification Introduction

https://youtu.be/ryxAcF_CfAQ?si=ZEL71lcRICyNjbqx

