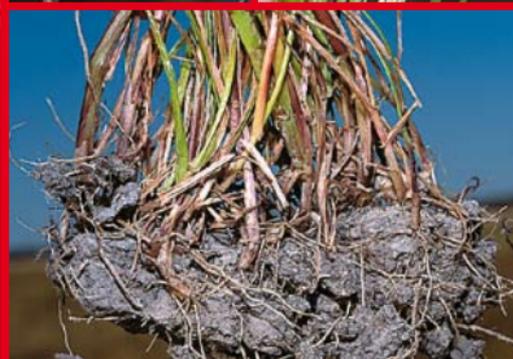
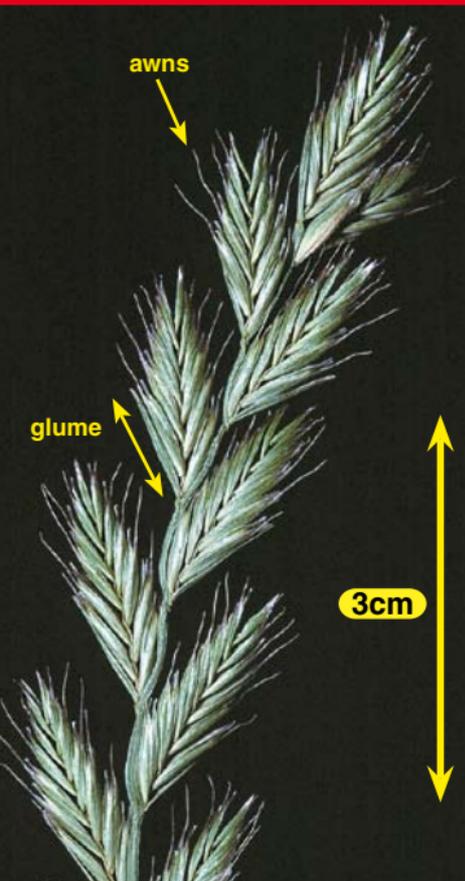


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SALTdeck Series

ITALIAN RYEGRASS

Lolium multiflorum

G8
GRASS



ITALIAN RYEGRASS

Lolium multiflorum



Family: Poaceae.

Description: Short-lived perennial to about 1 m tall. Leaves to about 20 cm long, shiny and hairless. Seedhead a spike to 20 cm long, the spikelets placed edgewise on the axis. Flowers spring to early summer.

Key features: Distinguished by having several flowers (lemmas) in the spikelets and the awns on the lemmas 4–14 mm long (see photo). The glumes about one third the length of the spikelet (see photo).

Value: Productive and important pasture plant.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Moderate tolerance to salinity and low tolerance to waterlogging.

Notes: Native to Mediterranean, now naturalised in all mainland States except Northern Territory. Cultivars have been introduced to Australia. Spread by seed. Hybridises with other species of *Lolium*. Weed of crops and in some situations an environmental weed. Its pollen is a major cause of allergenic reactions in humans.

References: *Flora of South Australia*, Jessop and Toelken (eds), Part 4, 4th edition 1986. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 2, 1994. *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 4, 1993.

