

Barley Grass

Barley Grass (*Hordeum marinum*).
—This is another annual weed grass, and is common throughout the country. Although it is conspicuous in those pastures in which it occurs, it cannot be regarded as a serious pest, as it usually thrives under conditions where better grasses will also thrive.

Barley grass, to thrive, requires two sets of conditions. Firstly, as it demands high fertility, it will occur only on country where the fertility is naturally high or where it has been induced artificially. Secondly, a loosely-managed and open sward is required for it to become dominant.

Fertility Factor

Barley grass is seldom seen in any quantity throughout the general run of second-class country, but as soon as the fertility of this country is increased to a sufficiently high level, barley grass is sure to appear. Bearing in mind that its requirements are high fertility and an open sward, one

can usually find this grass on old stack bottoms where the better grasses have been killed out and on sheep camps, whether they are out in the open or under trees.

Stock are not fond of barley grass, and the seeds are sometimes troublesome in wool.

The control of barley grass is concerned mainly with the maintaining of a close sward of better grasses. Small areas should be cut with the mower to prevent re-seeding, while large areas indicate a run-out pasture, which should be ploughed in any case.

The most striking vegetative character of barley grass is in its prominent, large, clasping ears. This serves to differentiate it from the majority of the common annual grasses. The leaves on both surfaces are dull and hairy. The ligule is short and inconspicuous, and the leaf shoot is rolled.

Creeping Fog

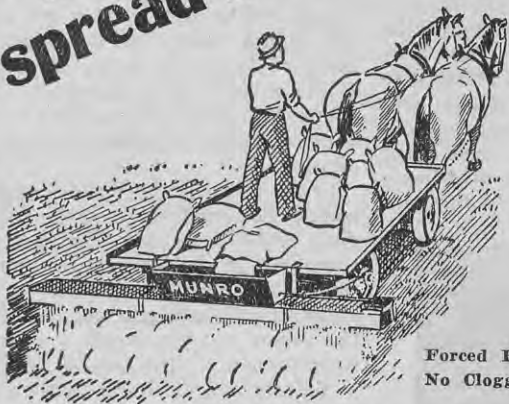
Creeping Fog (*Holcus mollis*) is also called creeping soft grass, and in general appearance is very similar to

Yorkshire fog except that it has long, twitchy, creeping, underground stems which render it a most undesirable grass and one of the worst twitches. The distribution of creeping fog is fairly general in districts where much cropping is carried out, and is abundant in parts of Canterbury, where large areas are dominated by it.

The methods to be adopted for the eradication of creeping fog are similar to those for *agropyron repens*. Creeping fog will thrive on poorer country than will *agropyron repens*, and is consequently more difficult to eradicate by the use of smother crops.

The only grasses which are likely to be confused with creeping fog are *agropyron repens* and Yorkshire fog. The two "fog" grasses may be distinguished by the fact that creeping fog is twitchy, whereas Yorkshire fog is not. Yorkshire fog differs from *agropyron repens* in that the former is quite hairy, especially at the nodes, and has no ears.

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