

****Avena fatua*****WILD OAT**

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Flowering period: August–December.**Description:** Erect annual grass to 1 m high. Flowers green and contained in drooping heads or spikelets. Leaves basal, linear, 15–20 cm long with presence of rust fungus indicated by occasional rusty-red lesions along the leaves. Plants produce distinctively awned seeds that self-wind into the soil upon release from the parent plant.**Pollination:** Wind pollinated.**Distribution:** Very widespread throughout southern Australia.**Control:** By application of grass-selective herbicides applied early in the growth cycle of the plant.**Notes:** A particularly troublesome weed due to its rapid growth rate and high seeding capacity. The seed bank is long-lived enabling the plant to quickly regenerate following winter rains. A common species in coastal dunes particularly following fire when the plant may over-top and suppress regenerating native species.

Emerging seedlings of wild oats at a stage when herbicide control is feasible.



Habit



Flowers



Seedling plant



Distribution