

University of California Cooperative Extension – Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties

September, 2024

## 20244 Fall Newsletter

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### Weed Management in Corn

Effective weed management is crucial for corn growers to maximize yields and minimize costs. Understanding the types of weeds present is essential for tailoring an herbicide program that meets these goals.

Corn grown for silage can be affected by weeds differently than corn grown for grain. Beyond reducing yields, weeds can negatively impact the digestibility and protein content of silage. Some weeds may even be toxic to livestock and weed seeds in silage can spread to other fields through manure. While many weeds can grow in California corn fields, some pose particular challenges.

**Barnyardgrass** (Fig. 1 & 2) is one of the most prevalent weeds in corn and can attract armyworms, which may eventually migrate to the crop. Preplant herbicides such as s-metolachlor (Dual Magnum), alachlor (Micro-Tech), and EPTC (Eradicane) can control barnyardgrass. Pendimethalin (Prowl) can be applied after cultivation to take care of germinating seeds. For post-emergent control, nicosulfuron effectively manages barnyardgrass up to 3 inches in height, and foramsulfuron can provide control for weeds up to 4 inches tall.



**Figures 1 & 2: Flower head (left) and young barnyardgrass (right).**