Perennial Grasses
Infesting Louisiana’s Rice

Water Paspalum
*Paspalum hydrophilum*

**Water paspalum**

**Keys to Identification**
- Hollow Stem - common only to water paspalum
- Prominent white leaf midvein
- Glabrous - no pubescence (hair) at nodes
- Leaf blade wide in proportion to stem
- Membranous ligule - no pubescence

Present in early season rice

Germinating Rice

hollow stem

white leaf midvein

nodes glabrous (no hair)
Brook Paspalum

*Paspalum acuminalum*

**Brook paspalum**

**Keys to Identification**

- Solid Stem
- Rachis (stem bearing seeds) winged
- Plant lacks pubescence (hair at nodes)
- Leaf blade wide in proportion to stem
- Membranous ligule - no pubescence

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Knotgrass

Paspalum distichum

Keys to Identification

- Solid Stem
- Leaf midvein not prominent
- Pubescence (hair) at nodes
- Leaf blade narrow in proportion to stem
- Membranous ligule with pubescence (hair) at collar region

Pubescence (hair) at nodes

Solid Stem

Leaf blade narrow in proportion to stem

Membranous ligule with pubescence (hair) at collar region

Leaves may appear blue after fertilizer is applied.
Perennial Barnyardgrass

*Echinochloa polystachya*

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### Perennial Barnyardgrass

#### Keys to Identification

- **Solid Stem**
- **Leaf midvein somewhat prominent**
- **Leaf blade narrow in proportion to stem**
- **Ligule - yellow row of hairs - not membranous**

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