

LUCI's Conserving Native Grasses and Grassy Habitats

Information Seminar



Overview

- Ecology and habitat function of native grasses
- Identification of grasses
- Assessing the condition of native grasslands
- LUCI's citizen science project



Fun Grassland Facts

- Depending on how they're defined, grasslands account for between 20-40% of the world's land area. They exist on every continent except Antarctica.
- Most of the world's grasslands exist in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa.
- Tibet Grassland – 40,000,000 km²
- The Australian tropical savanna stretches from Broome WA to Townsville across 1,700,000 km²
- 12,000 species of grasses in the world
- 929 taxa in QLD, 208 exotic species, just 407 species in the Moreton Region



Ecology and habitat function of native grasses

Grasses are an important component to Australia's woodlands and riparian zones of our waterways and wetlands.

- Soil stabilizer
- Ground cover for moisture control and erosion
- Food – herbivores
- Shelter – rodents, marsupials, reptiles
- Foraging grounds for predators – raptors, owls, snakes
- Fuel for fires





Grasslands and grassy woodlands are home to threatened species found nowhere else.



Condamine grassland earless dragon, *Tympanocryptis condaminensis*. Photo: Robert Ashdown

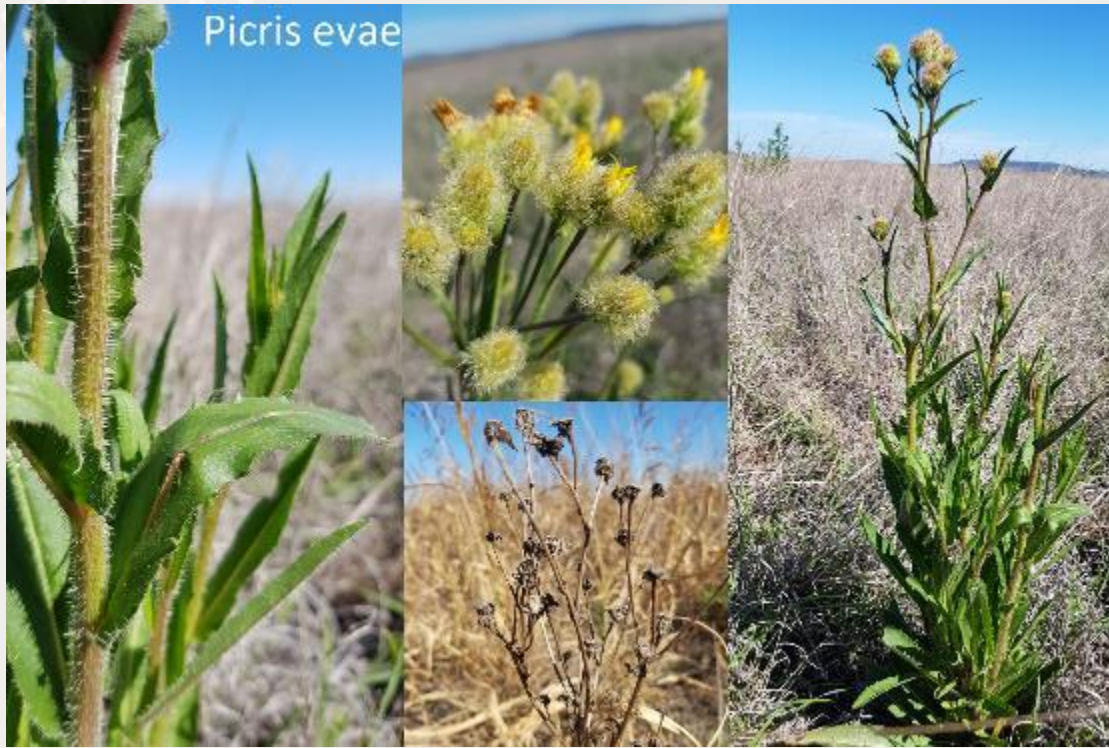


Five clawed worm skink, *Anomalopus mackayi*



Rhaponticum australe





Hawkweed, *Picris euae* and *Picris barbarorum*



King Bluegrass, *Dichanthium queenslandicum*





Finger panic, *Digitaria porrecta*



Native Grass Identification

Online resources:

AusGrass 2

<http://ausgrass2.myspecies.info/>

NSW PlantNet:

<https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/floraonline.htm>

Seeds of South Australia:

<https://spapps.environment.sa.gov.au/seedsofsa/>

Key Base

<https://keybase.rbg.vic.gov.au/>

Atlas of Living Australia

<https://www.ala.org.au/>

Weed Identification Tool

<https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/>



Inflorescence

Inflorescence: Flower structure of a grass plant.



Raceme



Panicle

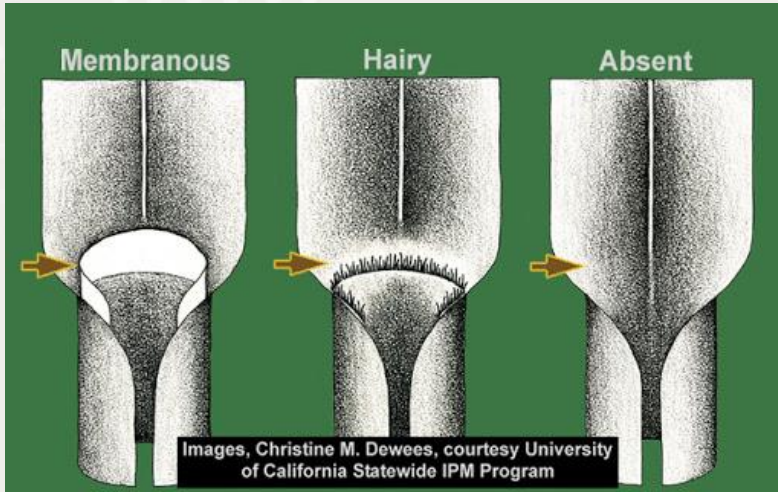


Spike

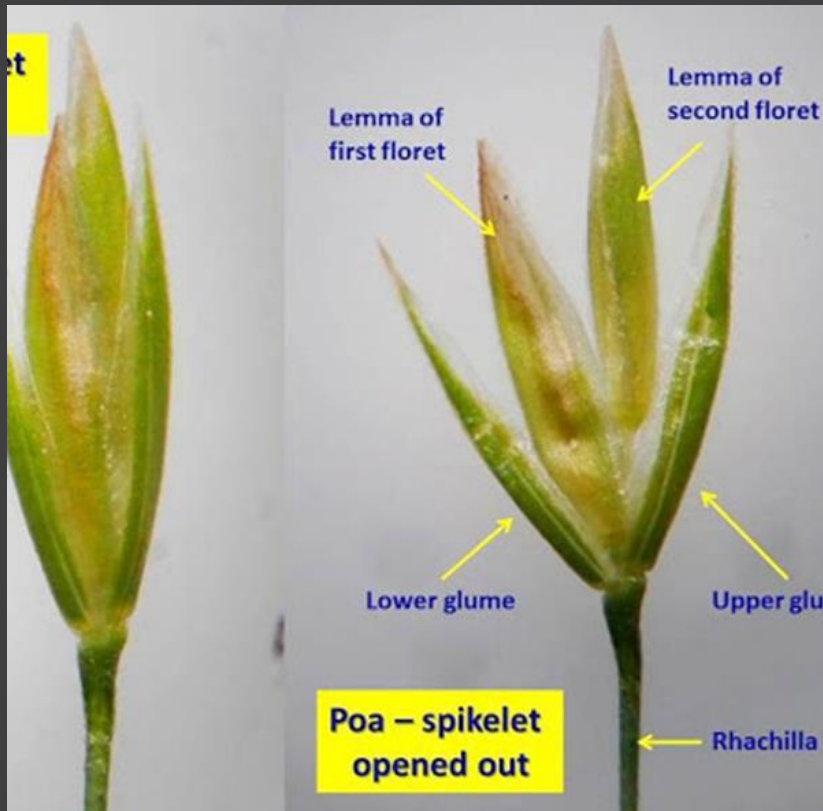




Ligule



Glume, Lemma







Spikelets

Slender Bamboo grass,
Austrostipa verticillata

Bamboo grass, *Austrostipa*
ramosissima





Silky-heads,
Cymbopogon
oblectus

Barbwire Grass,
Cymbopogon
refractus



Hooky grass,
Ancistrachne uncinulata



Wiry panic, *Entolasia stricta*



Bordered panic,
Entolasia marginata





Dark wiregrass, *Aristida calycina*

Many headed wiregrass, *Aristida caput-medusae*

Queensland wiregrass, *Aristida queenslandica*

White speargrass, *Aristida leptopoda*



Native millet, *Panicum decompositum*

Yabila grass, *Panicum queenslandicum*

Two colour panic, *Panicum simile*

Native millet, *Panicum buncei*



Windmill grasses

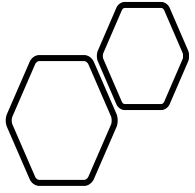
Chloris truncata

Chloris gayana

Chloris divaricata

Chloris ventricosa





Tall Kangaroo grass,
Themeda avenacea

Kangaroo grass,
Themeda triandra



Queensland bluegrass,
Dichanthium sericeum



Forest bluegrass,
Bothriochloa bladhii



Pitted bluegrass,
Bothriochloa decipiens



Grassland Condition





Photo monitoring points
Ground cover 1 m quadrats
Species in 25 m quadrats

