



Native Wheatgrass
Elymus scaber

Habitat: grows on most soil types, particularly in moist and shaded areas of paddocks.

Growth Habit: a loosely tufted grass up to 100cm height; highly variable in appearance.

Seed Head: a narrow spike to 25cm long; spikelets with many awned florets; awns straight when young and curved at maturity.

Leaves: leaves often have a half twist; flag leaf (directly below seed head) sticks out at a right angle.

Other Distinctive Features: auricles present.

Cool season perennial



Rough Speargrass
Austrostipa scabra

Habitat: widespread and common occurring on rocky outcrops, westerly aspects and lighter textured shallow or well drained soils; common in low ground cover positions with limited soil depth.

Growth Habit: erect tufted grass to 80cm tall.

Seed Head: a moderately contracted to open panicle to 30cm long; spikelets are 10-15cm long, sharply pointed with a long sickle shaped awn.

Leaves: leaves are very fine, long and strongly rolled; leaves are rough to touch.

Year-long green perennial



Plains Grass
Austrostipa aristaglumis

Habitat: common to dominant in native/naturalised pastures on heavy clay (particularly black earth) soils of the north slopes and plains; prefers good moisture, high fertility and neutral to alkaline pH.

Growth Habit: coarse and densely tufted to 180cm height; tussocks up to 30cm in base diameter. If underutilised, plants are often a mixture of tall senesced older growth and fresh green shoots.

Seed Head: to 55cm long and loose whorled branches when mature; seed bases are sharply pointed with awns to 4cm long and twice bent.

Leaves: to 40cm long, ribbed, generally hairless and often rough to touch.

Year-long green perennial



Wallaby Grasses
Austrodanthonia spp.

Habitat: widespread and common with a number of species occurring in NSW and Victoria; some species adapted to hard, shallow soils through to species on fertile clay soils;

Growth Habit: fine leaved tufted grass to 100cm tall.

Seed Head: a contracted to open panicle; spikelets green, with pink tinges in early flowering, become fluffy white with maturity.

Leaves: grey-green to dark green and often hairy; hairy fringe at the junction of the leaf blade and leaf sheath.

Year-long green perennial



Native Millet
Panicum decompositum

Habitat: mainly occurring on heavy clay soils, in depressions and along floodplains.

Growth Habit: can form large, upright tussocks to 145cm in height; difficult to distinguish from other Panicum species including P. queenslandicum (Yabila grass).

Seed Head: becomes a large, open branched panicle at maturity, with spikelets commonly paired and hairless; pollen sacs are deep orange; ripe seeds are 1.5-2mm long.

Leaves: wide, mostly hairless, light blue-green (often with white mid-rib) to 50cm long and 12mm wide.

Warm season perennial



Common Windmill Grass
Chloris truncata

Habitat: widespread on many soil types; useful coloniser of bare areas following summer rain; relatively salt tolerant.

Growth Habit: tufted grass, usually less than 20cm height; contains stolons (runners) that can root down at the node.

Seed Head: windmill-like (digitate) seed head consists of 6-9 spikes that radiate out like spokes of a wheel from main stem; truncate spikelets are arranged in two rows on the underside of branches; black seeds are blunt and awned.

Leaves: hairless, pale green-blue green in colour, short and narrow with an abrupt taper at the tip (boat shaped); new leaves are folded lengthwise along the mid rib.

Warm season annual-perennial



Kangaroo Grass
Themeda australis syn. *Themeda triandra*

Habitat: grows on most soil types; a widespread species often found in non-arable areas and landscapes that have been protected from grazing or only lightly grazed (e.g. roadsides and travelling stock reserves); considered a widespread and dominant species prior to European settlement.

Growth Habit: an erect, densely tufted grass to 150cm height.

Seed Head: contains leaf like structures (spathes) and fertile spikelets have long black awns.

Leaves: blue-ish green in summer and rust purple after frosting; leaves are folded with long hairs at the leaf-sheath junction; sheath is hairy.

Warm season perennial



Warrego Summer Grass
Paspalidium jubiflorum

Habitat: common in paddock depressions, swamps; most productive on heavier, fertile soils; responds well to flooding and inundation.

Growth Habit: a leafy and slender tussock forming grass with erect stems growing from 30-120cm in height;

Seed Head: a closed panicle; long and narrow with up to 16 branches (each up to 4cm long) pressed against the main stem; seeds are pale green to straw coloured, are round and have no awns.

Leaves: smooth, flat and narrow, up to 25cm long; tapering to a long fine point.

Other Distinctive Features: stem joints (nodes) and leaf sheaths are hairy and long hairs surround the ligule.

Warm season perennial



Curly Windmill Grass
Enteropogon acicularis

Habitat: occurs across a range of soil types; more common in conservatively grazed paddocks; good drought and flood tolerance, moderate frost tolerance.

Growth Habit: potentially long-lived perennial with a dense, tussock forming habit to 110cm height.

Seed Head: digitate, containing several and up to 15 branches that radiate out like spokes on a wheel across several planes. Spikelets are awned, light in colour and narrower than Chloris truncata.

Leaves: broad and flat, variably hairy and often a distinct blue-green; older leaves become crimped, curled or spiralled.

Warm season perennial



Hairy Panic
Panicum effusum

Habitat: most common in dry areas on sandy or shallow low fertility soils; found in low - moderate abundance in native pastures, woodlands or disturbed areas.

Growth Habit: a short, tufted grass to 50cm height.

Seed Head: is a wide open panicle with spikelets often paired at the end of branches.

Leaves: are flat and dull green-grey colour; leaf sheaths and nodes are hairy; there are distinctive long glandular hairs along leaf margins.

Warm season perennial



Paddock Lovegrass
Eragrostis leptostachya

Habitat: found in woodlands, native pastures and naturalised pastures; widespread on low-moderate fertility soils.

Growth Habit: a slender, tufted grass to 90cm height; prostrate growth habit common in grazed pastures.

Seed Head: consist of open, spreading branches (panicle) that is more than twice as long as broad; branches and spikelets branching approximately at right angles; spikelets often lead pencil coloured with many divisions (toothed appearance).

Leaves: leaf blades are rolled in the bud and smooth along the margins; leaf sheaths are hairy.

Warm season perennial



Redgrass
Bothriochloa macra / decipiens

Habitat: occurs on most soil types but often dominant on poor, lower fertility soils; frequently invades overgrazed or bare pastures when fertility levels decline; does not occur on highly acidic soils.

Growth Habit: tufted grass with prostrate basal leaves & erect wiry stems to 100cm

Seed Head: 3-4 erect branches usually pressed together; branch bases are bare; spikelets are awned and often pitted.

Leaves: leaf blades are rolled in the bud; sheath & blades have prominent mid rib.

Other Distinctive Features: stems have red, hairless nodes turning dark red after seeds fall.

Warm season perennial



Snow or Tussock Grass
Poa sieberiana

Habitat: a widespread species often found in woodland and forest environments; more common on well drained upper slopes than lower drainage lines.

Growth Habit: a densely tufted grass to 80cm height.

Seed Head: pyramid - shaped and open, varying from green to purple in colour.

Leaves: green to grey-green, long and fine; rough to touch and without a ligule.

Year-long green perennial



Weeping Grass
Microlaena stipoides

Habitat: common, especially in damp or semi-shaded areas; highly tolerant of soil acidity and exchangeable aluminium; resilient native species during drought

Growth Habit: a perennial grass of variable form often with a low growing, dense leafy tuft.

Seed Head: narrow and weeping (raceme or panicle); spikelets have two straight awns to 20mm length.

Leaves: flat lime or blue green with a boat - shaped tip and commonly a notch or pinch near the tip.

Other Distinctive Features: small auricles present.

Year-long green perennial



Three-awned Wiregrass
Aristida ramosa

Habitat: grows on poor, shallow and sandy soils of low fertility. May exist on better soils that are poorly managed.

Growth Habit: tufted up to 120cm high.

Seed Head: spikelets have a sharply pointed base and distinct three - branched awn.

Leaves: very few, coarse, narrow and often pale coloured.

Other Distinctive Features: stiff wiry stems that are often branched at the nodes (stem joint).

Warm season perennial