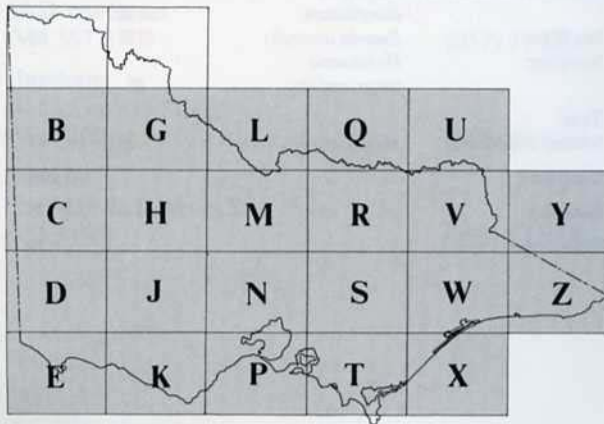




Distribution map



Hill Wallaby Grass

Danthonia eriantha

► General Description:

Tall, slender, tufted grass, up to 70cm high. Fine, linear leaves slightly curled inwards at the edges and covered with hairs.

The flowerhead is somewhat loose and branched. The individual flowers (florets) have bent bristles which start off dark brown and twisted, then bend and become very thin and fawn coloured. It flowers mainly in spring.

► Further Details:

Perennial grass. Stems are smooth and thin with few nodes. Leaves are stiff and usually shorter than the stem. It is particularly hairy near the bottom. The spikelets have 2 large outer husks in a V-shape with tiny hairy bristled florets inside them.

► Soils:

Typically found growing in gravelly loams, sandy loams and gravelly loamy clays, often in shallow soils.

► Habitat and Notes:

Often occurs in unimproved pastures, found on moderately saline soils, and associated with scalds.

► Salinity Tolerance:

■ Class 1



Wimmera Rye Grass

Lolium rigidum

► General Description:

Typical grass, up to 90cm tall. Erect or sprawling, with tillers (stolons/horizontal stems). Leaves are long and narrow, without hairs, and are ribbed on the upper surface. The flowerhead is narrow with short flat spikelets on either side of the stem. It flowers in spring and early summer.

► Further Details:

Annual grass which usually forms tussocky clumps. Leaves have a shiny lower surface, and a strongly ribbed upper surface. The flowerhead stem is slightly wavy with spikelets in the hollows. The spikelets are flattened and contain up to 9 flowers. Occasionally the spikelets have bristles but not usually.

► Soils:

Found on a range of soil types from sandy loams, clay loams to heavy clays.

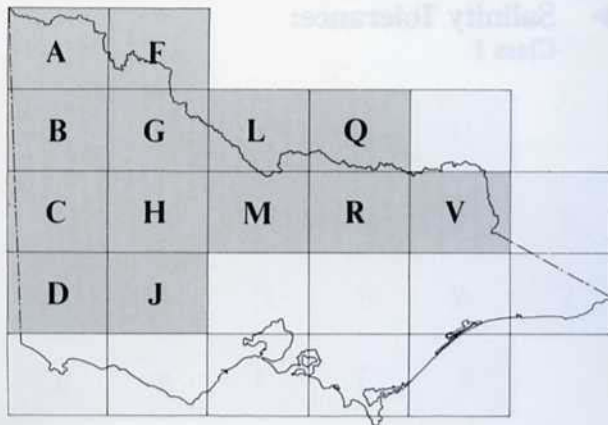
► Habitat and Notes:

This species has been sown with clovers to produce pasture swards because it is highly palatable. It also occurs in wasteland and sometimes it invades and competes with crops. It is mainly a winter and spring growing plant. Large amounts of pollen are produced and this often causes hay fever.

► Salinity Tolerance:

■ Class 1

Distribution map





Saltmarsh Grass (Marsh Grass)

Puccinellia stricta

► General Description:

Upright hairless grass, 15-60cm high. Slender blue-green leaves, lying close to the stem up to the flowerhead or in a bushy growth at the base of the plant. The flowerhead has a slender stem with fine branches and spikelets.

The branches are erect but open out later. Flowering in spring.

► Further Details:

Annual. Pale green leaves and spikelets. Flowerhead is a very narrow, erect, panicle (branched flowering stalk). 5-15mm long. The spikelets have 6-12 flowers which have purplish edges when they are green.

► Soils:

Sandy.

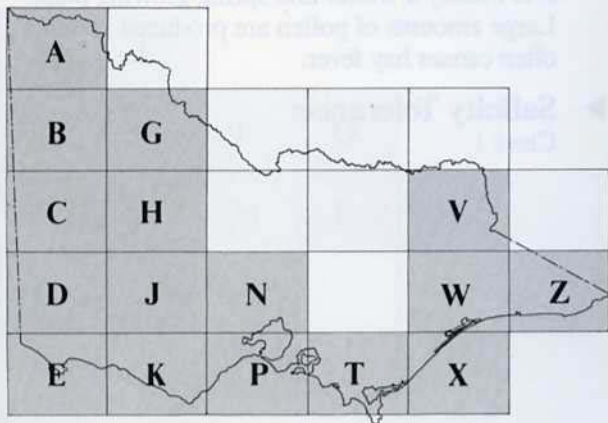
► Habitat and Notes:

Found in coastal salt marshes, against brackish water and around salt lakes.

► Salinity Tolerance:

- Class 1
- Class 2

Distribution map





Sea Barley Grass (Squirrel-Tail Grass)

Hordeum marinum

► General Description:

Typical leafy grass with distinctive flowerheads. Spreading or erect, up to 25cm tall (but usually shorter) with smooth cylindrical stems. Soft leaves tapering to the tip and incurled with a soft covering of hairs. Flowerhead is a distinctive slightly flattened bristled cluster. Flowers in spring to early summer.

► Further Details:

Annual. Stems branch at their base. Flowerhead is a compact, much-bristled, semi-flattened spike, containing spikelets in groups of 3. The central spikelet is fertile and without a stalk. All the spikelets have bristles, which are slightly barbed.

Sea Barley Grass (*H. marinum*) is very similar to Barley Grass (*H. leporinum*) but it tends to be smaller. They are distinguished by the lengths of the bristles. If you pull the flowerhead apart and look at the individual spikelet groups, Sea Barley Grass has 2 short bristles on the outer florets. In Barley Grass these are longer than the other bristles. (Important—see diagrams)

► Soils:

Found growing in a range of soils from loams. clay loams to clays, sometimes in sandy loams.

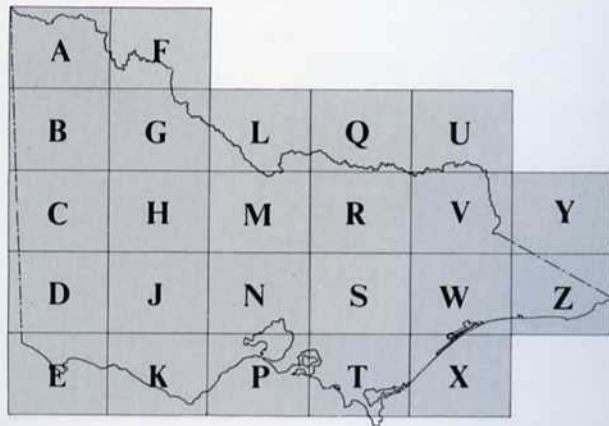
► Habitat and Notes:

A colonizer of disturbed low lying situations associated with pasture plants and some native communities. Widespread in saline areas.

► Salinity Tolerance:

- Class 1
- Class 2

Distribution map





Swamp Couch (Common Couch, Couch Grass)

Cynodon dactylon

► General Description:

A tough creeping or erect mat-forming grass. Many stems and leafy. The leaves are narrow and taper to a point. Flowerheads are like the spokes of an umbrella, with up to 6 spikes radiating from the end of the flower stalk. The spikes are usually straight but they are sometimes slightly curved. Flowering in summer and autumn.

► Further Details:

Perennial grass with stolons (runners/horizontal stems) and rhizomes (underground stems). The leaves are hairless or minutely hairy. The spikelets are overlapping, and arise in 2 rows on the underside of the spikes. The spikelets are up to 2mm long and have one flower each.

There are several species with similar flowerheads. For example Windmill Grass (*Chloris truncata*). Swamp Couch grass tends to be much more spread out and has smaller flowerheads, with no bristles, whereas Windmill Grass tends to occur as individual tufted plants and has slightly larger flowerheads with more spikes and bristles on the spikes.

► Soils:

Wide range of soils from sand to heavy clays.

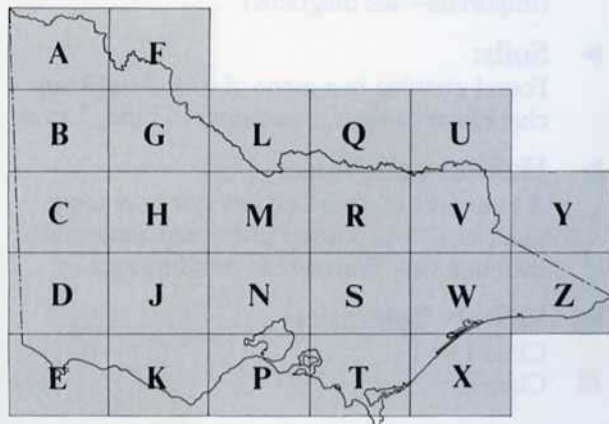
► Habitat and Notes:

Prefers moist sites such as stream sides, roadside drains and plains which are occasionally flooded. It is also able to tolerate dry sites and forms dense mats in favourable conditions. It is tolerant of slightly to moderately saline soils but more common in slightly saline soils.

► Salinity Tolerance:

- Class 1
- Class 2

Distribution map





Tall Wheat Grass

Agropyron elongatum

► General Description:

Very tall, thick-stemmed grass, usually about 1m tall in clumps about 20cm across. Coarse linear leaves with a rough upper surface. Flowerhead is long and a bit like a wheat flowerhead. It has flattened spikelets which grow out of notches either side of the stem. Flowers spring to autumn.

► Further Details:

Perennial grass. Leaves are coarsely ridged and inrolled. The stems are tough and smooth with prominent nodes. The flowerhead is a spike up to 30cm long. The spikelets have no stalks and the individual flowers have tough outer husks. There are no bristles.

► Soils:

Prefers wet, saline, clay loams, and clays which dry and harden in summer.

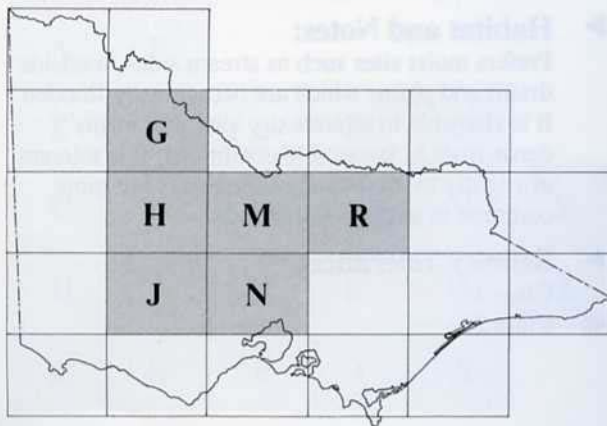
► Habitat and Notes:

A productive and palatable grass capable of growing in moderately saline soils. Introduced for the purpose of revegetating wet, saline soils. The species is slow growing and is susceptible to overgrazing which can slow down or prevent establishment. When heavily grazed, it looks like just a clump of spikey stems.

► Salinity Tolerance:

- Class 1
- Class 2

Distribution map





Windmill Grass (Umbrella Grass, Star Grass)

Chloris truncata

► General Description:

Typical leafy grass, up to 45cm tall, with coarse straight, linear inrolled leaves of up to 14cm long. Windmill-like flowerhead, situated on top of a long stalk. The flowerhead is a series of up to 9 spikes radiating from the end of a stalk. Spikes are up to 13cm long, with a hairy base and quite long bristles on the spikes. Flowers from spring to autumn, but mainly in the summer.

► Further Details:

Annual or perennial grass, with flattened upright stems bent slightly at the base. The stems are not branched. Spikelets arranged alternately in 2 rows, on the spikes. They turn purplish when mature and have 2 long thin bristles each.

There are several species with similar flowerheads. For example Swamp Couch grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). Windmill Grass tends to occur as individual tufted plants and has slightly larger flowerheads with more spikes, whereas Swamp Couch Grass tends to be much more spread out and has smaller flowerheads with no bristles.

► Soils:

Occurs in most soil types but prefers red earths and grey clays.

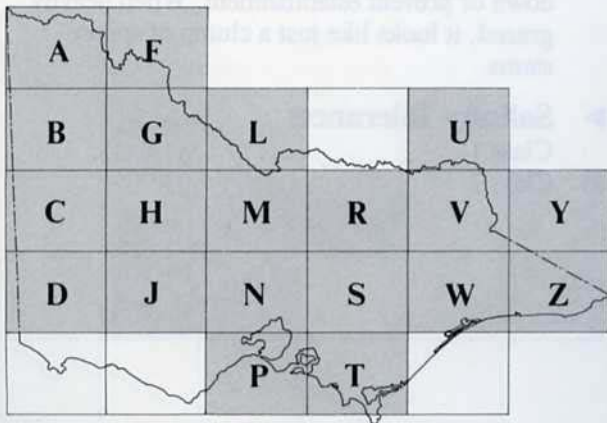
► Habitat:

Occurs extensively in pastures, can be dominant in some areas where a disturbance has weakened the existing shrub species. The species is a colonizer of some eroded soils and scalded areas. It is readily grazed when young but becomes unpalatable as it gets older.

► Salinity Tolerance:

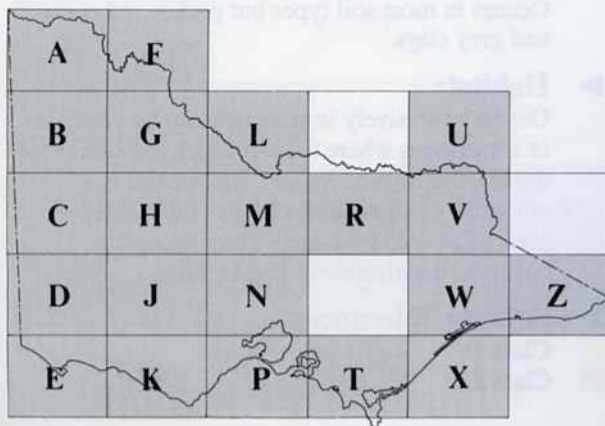
- Class 1
- Class 2

Distribution map





Distribution map



Annual Beard Grass

(Rabbit-Foot Grass)

Polypogon monspeliensis

▶ General Distribution:

Medium sized tufted grass up to 60cm tall. Typical grass-like leaves up to 8mm wide. Soft cigar-shaped flowerheads with many fine bristles. Flowerheads are pale-green or yellowish brown and often have a silvery tinge. Flowers in spring.

▶ Further Details:

Erect annual grass. Stems arising singly or tufted, branching from or near the base. Leaves are straight, hairless about 5-20cm long, and taper to a fine tip. The leaf surface tends to be rough. Flowerhead is a cylindrical, bushy panicle (branched flowerhead) up to 16cm long.

▶ Soils:

Damp clay loams and clays.

▶ Habitat and Notes:

Prefers moist depressions such as stream banks and roadside drains. It also likes shaded areas.

▶ Salinity Tolerance:

■ Class 2



Australian Salt Grass

(Emu Grass)

Distichlis distichophylla

► General Description:

Coarse prickly grass with two rows of narrow pointed leaves on opposite sides of the stem. Leaves are regularly spaced and tend to grow outwards away from the stem. The flowerhead is a group of 2-5 pale spikelets at the end of a stem. Flowers mainly in spring but may continue into summer.

► Further Details:

Perennial grass which often has closely bunched stems and leaves. The stems lie along the ground or ascend from rhizomes (underground stems). The spikelets are flattened and have 6-14 individual flowers.

► Soils:

Occurs in a wide range of soil types from sandy to loams and clays. It is tolerant of periodically flooded or very wet soils.

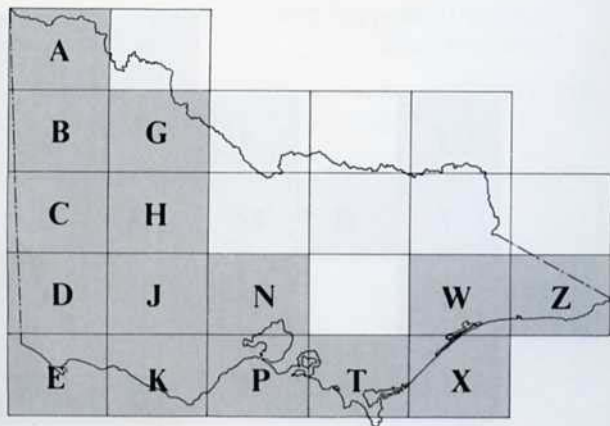
► Habitat and Notes:

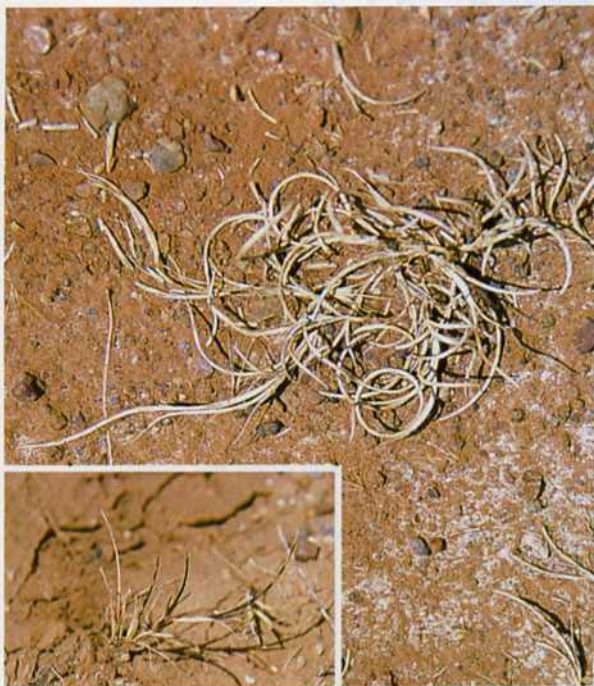
Quite a common plant in some areas especially in coastal areas and salt marshes. Sometimes forms quite dense mats in moderately saline areas. It is useful for stabilising saline soils.

► Salinity Tolerance:

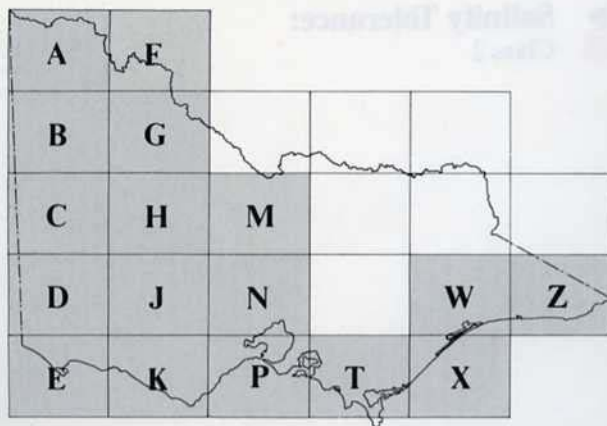
Class 2

Distribution map





Distribution map



Curly Rye Grass

(Curved Hard-Grass, Sickie Grass)

Parapholis incurva

► General Description:

Sprawling tufted grass, which is quite thick and curved. The leaves which can be up to 30cm long, are rounded, pointed and typically curled. There are often numerous flowerheads. They are long and curved with the small husks of the florets (individual flowers) very close to the stem so that they almost appear to be part of the stem. Flowers in spring.

► Further Details:

Low growing annual grass. Stems grow from a base singly or in tufts. The leaves are rough on the upper surface, and smooth on the lower surface. Flowerhead is a slim cylindrical spike, up to 8cm long. It is curved, with numerous florets alternating up opposite sides of the spike. The flowers are purple/brown.

► Soils:

In soils ranging from loams to clay loams and clays, more abundant on clays.

► Habitat and Notes:

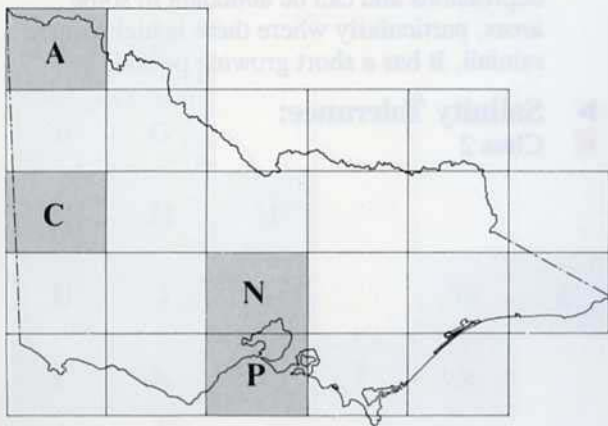
Found on areas subject to flooding for part of the year. It is an important colonizer of saline depressions and can be abundant in some areas, particularly where there is high winter rainfall. It has a short growing period.

► Salinity Tolerance:

■ Class 2



Distribution map



Slender Barb-Grass (Seahard Grass)

Parapholis strigosa

► **General Description:**

Variable grass up to 40cm tall. Smooth slender stems with small pointed hairless leaves which may be rolled. Flowerheads are erect cylindrical green or purplish spikes. Individual flowers are alternate on the spike and very close to the stem with pairs of thin pointed outer husks. Flowers mainly in spring.

► **Further Details:**

Annual. Loosely tufted or single stems. Leaves are 1-6cm long and 1-2.5mm wide, with rough upper surfaces and margins. The flowerheads are 2-20cm long, very slender, sometimes curved. They are smooth with joints about every 5mm, single flowers embedded in hollows on the stem covered by narrow pointed husks of a similar size to the flowers.

► **Soils:**

Mainly sandy soils. Also on clay loams and clays.

► **Habitat and Notes:**

Commonly found in sandhills. Also found in lignum swamps, bladder saltbush communities and coastal areas. Winter-spring growing grass, not grazed much by livestock.

► **Salinity Tolerance:**

■ Class 2



Spiny Rush

(Sharp Rush)

Juncus acutus

► General Description:

Large, tough rush in distinctive clumps, with hard, narrow cylindrical leaves about 130cm long and 4mm wide. Leaves are dark green with a sharp spike at the tip. Large clusters of small reddish-brown flowers, or small hard reddish-brown nut-like fruits, near the tops of the stems. Flowers in spring and summer.

► Further Details:

Perennial. Leaves and flower stems look similar and both have pithy centres. Leaves and stems arise densely from a compact base. Sharp pointed bract (which looks like a continuation of the stem) above the flowers/fruits. New plants do not flower until at least 2 years old.

► Soils:

Found in a wide range of soils.

► Habitat and Notes:

Widespread, found on saline coastal flats, silt deposits inland and mine dumps. Tends to favour depressions and moist areas. Does not require wet soil once established. May form impenetrable thickets. Often very difficult to get rid of. Unpalatable to livestock.

► Salinity Tolerance:

- Class 1
- Class 2

Distribution map

