

Wallaby-grass

Austrodanthonia sp.



Description:

Common tussock grass with long graceful flower stalks: up to 1 m high. Linear narrow flowers, often green to purple. Distinctive fluffy seed heads.

Cultivation:

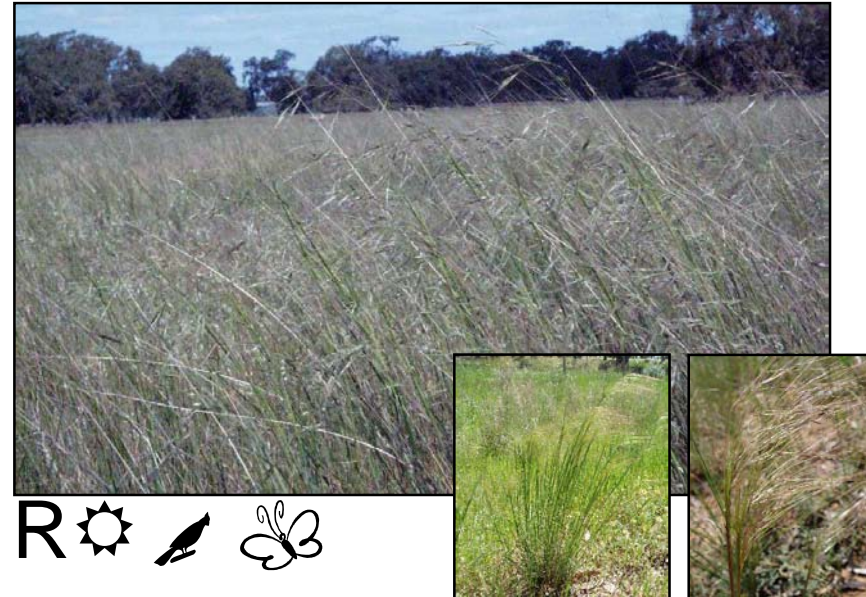
Perennial. If in garden, may rejuvenate old tussocks by pruning severely or even burning and watering afterwards. Very hardy and persistent. Useful on groundwater recharge areas.

Special Notes:

Valued for its persistence, palatability and productivity.

Spear-grass

Austrostipa sp.



Description:

Tussock grass: up to 1 m high. Feathery flowers and shiny, bronze seed heads with corkscrew twists and long awns in early summer. (Awn - slender bristle-like appendage)

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers well drained infertile soils. If in garden, may rejuvenate old tussocks by pruning severely and watering afterwards.

Special Notes:

Found with other grasses.

Common Wheat-grass

Elymus scaber



Description:

Open, sparsely tufted grass: up to 30cm high. Narrow green to bluish leaves with half-twist, rough along edge. Slender flower spikes: up to 1.2m high. Flowers with long outward-curving awns in summer: up to 5cm long. (Awn - slender bristle-like appendage)

Cultivation:

Perennial.

Special Notes:

An important component of native grasslands. Flowers have been described as wheat-like; hence name.

Spider Grass

Enteropogon acicularis



Description:

Dense clumping tussock grass. Green leaves from erect usually branching stems, leaf blades often curl into a spiral at tip: up to 20cm long and 6mm wide. Flowers terminal cluster of 7-15 wide-spreading spikes, usually not on one plane: up to 18cm long. Develops numerous dark seeds.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers heavier soils.

Special Notes:

Once dominant. Stabilises sandy soils. Very similar to Windmill Grass (*Chloris truncata*) but *Chloris* flower spikes are all on one plane and tussocks are smaller. Also called Curly Windmill Grass or Umbrella Grass.

Common Tussock Grass

Poa labillardierei



Description:

Large dense tussock grass: up to 80cm. Flower spikes, initially green becoming light brown. Open, pyramid-shaped flowers in spring becoming finely branched seed heads as they mature : up to 1.3m.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers well drained loams.

Special Notes:

Unpalatable to stock. Aboriginals used stems and leaves as string to make nets. May help control erosion.

Kangaroo Grass

Themeda triandra



Description:

Dense clumping tussock grass. Soft bright green linear leaves form tussock: up to 50cm high. Flower spikes initially green with distinctive purple or green flower heads and black awns, becoming red-brown in summer: to 1m high.
(Awn - slender bristle-like appendage)

Cultivation:

Perennial. Deep rooted. Adaptable to any soil type. Rejuvenate old tussocks by pruning severely in winter.

Special Notes:

Aboriginals used stems and leaves as string to make nets. Seeds can be ground and baked.