

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

NORTH AFRICA GRASS (*Ventenata dubia*)

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

DESCRIPTION

- Native to north Africa, south-central Europe, south Russia, and west Asia
- Winter annual grass
- Young plants: vibrant green, reddish-black nodes, long ligules, and shallow roots (May/June)
- Mature plants: erect, narrow, in-rolled culms (10 - 45 cm), with microscopic hairs making stems smooth-like
- Plants with shiny silvery-green appearance and open panicle (June/July)
- Senesced plants: lower awns straight, upper awns twisted and bent (July/August)

Mature senescing North Africa grass



P. Scheinost, USDA NRCS

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

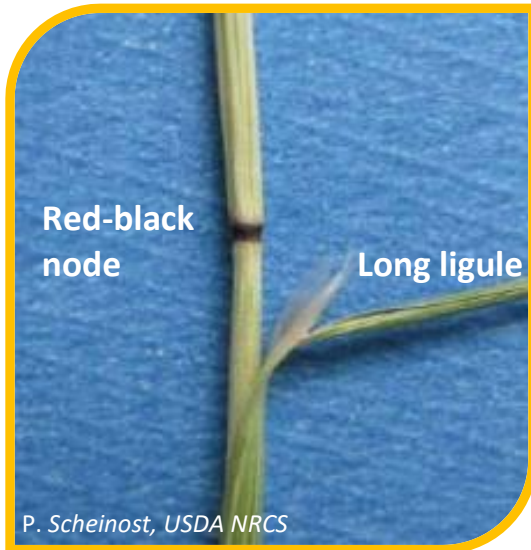
PRIMARY THREATS: Decreases forage and increases risk of fire.

BIOLOGY & SPREAD

- Reproduces by seeds with 15-35 seeds/plant
- Seed viability of at least 3 years
- Seeds produced in spring and germinate in fall
- Seeds dispersed by grass seed mixes, hay, machinery, vehicles or humans and animals
- Twisted and bent awns “unwind” when wet and drill into soil

IMPACT

- Replaces perennial grasses and forbs
- New invader that infests and degrades native, newly seeded, and managed grasslands
- Increases soil erosion
- Mature, wiry stems are not palatable to livestock
- Can impede mechanical harvesting equipment



Red-black node

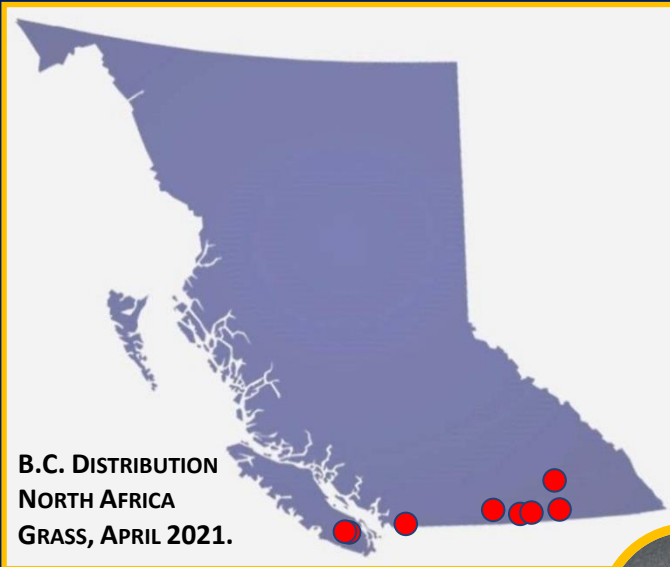
Long ligule

P. Scheinost, USDA NRCS

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants>



NORTH AFRICA GRASS (*Ventenata dubia*)



DISTRIBUTION & STATUS

- Regulated Provincial Noxious Weed
- Management goal contain to impacted regions
- BC confirmed sites are limited to the regions of the West and Central Kootenays, Boundary, Metro Vancouver, and Nanaimo

DID YOU KNOW?

- If cut or grazed, North Africa grass can re-produce inflorescence in the same year.

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Senesced North Africa grass



Matt Lavin

Late summer inflorescence



David Skinner

HABITAT

- Found in open, disturbed habitats below 1800 m (fields, rangelands, roadsides, rail lines, and occasionally dry forests and riparian corridors)
- Can invade disturbed bunchgrass and shrub-steppe communities
- Most common below 1,800 m elevation

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **REPORT** sightings
- **SCREEN** seed mixtures to ensure invasive plant free: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/environment/invasive-species/invasive_plant_hiding_in_seed.pdf

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants>



North African Grass Identification and Look-Alikes

It is difficult to distinguish this plant from other look-alikes, please report suspected sightings and do not remove plants until positive identification confirmed.



North Africa Grass <i>Ventenata dubia</i>	Cheatgrass <i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Timber Oatgrass <i>Danthonia intermedia</i>	Oat Grass <i>Avenula hookeri</i> (syn. <i>Helictotrichon hookeri</i>)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bent awns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Straight awns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 florets per spikelet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-6 florets per spikelet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accordion-folded florets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larger elongate, accordion-folded glumes ending in a sharp tip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller glumes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accordion-folded glumes that are more oval-shaped than <i>Ventenata dubia</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long and papery glumes that look like <i>Ventenata dubia</i>, but are smooth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inner floret is straw-coloured and has a smooth, cylindrical lemma bent awn coming from the back looks like a cross between oats and needlegrass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inner floret and rachilla have hairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inner floret is accordion-folded and brown, while <i>Ventenata dubia</i> is straw-coloured
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caryopsis is straw-coloured, long, three-sided Caryopsis naturally soft (squishes between tweezers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caryopsis is brown and hard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caryopsis is hard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flowers in late spring-summer (June-August) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flowers in early spring (May-June) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A