



Cenchrus clandestinus

Common Name(s):

kikuyu grass

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A coastal plant of high fertile sites (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). A plant that prefers warm, moist and fertile soils, but is drought resistant (Department of Conservation 1996). A plant of sand dunes (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). A plant that is a common dominant pasture grass (Department of Conservation 1996). A plant that is invasive in coastal areas (Department of Conservation 1996).

Features:

Creeping, perennial, hairy, mat-forming grass. Stolons very long, climbing supported occ to 2+ m, rooting frequently. Rhizomes long. Leaves alternate, 5-40 x 3-9 cm, bright green to yellow-green, soft and drooping, sparsely hairy above and below, blades folded, ligule a fringe of hairs, auricle missing. Sheath pale green to white, with soft 2-4 mm hairs. Seedhead of 2-3 tiny spikelets in upper leaf sheaths, wispy anthers and stigmas

Flowering:

flowers are very small and reduced.

References and further reading:

Esler, A.E. 1998. The clandestine flowering of Kikuyu grass. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal*, 53: 62-64.

Little, C. 1999. Kikuyu a further note. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal*, 54: 13

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3023



Caption: *Cenchrus clandestinus*, leafy shoot

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: *Cenchrus clandestinus*, stigmas

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth