



Cenchrus setaceus

Common Name(s):

African fountain grass

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial.

Features:

Thickly-tufted perennials to 100cm, light green at base with narrow inrolled leaves; branching intravaginal. Sheath rounded or slightly keeled above, subcoriaceous, margins long-ciliate. Ligule .3~.7mm, a membranous densely ciliate rim. Collar hairs to 2.5mm. Blade 15~30cm x .5~1.5mm., stiff, folded or involute, long-tapering, adaxially very scabrid; margins esp., with a few scattered long hairs, tip filiform, acute. Culm 30~45cm, erect, internodes with many finely scabrid ridges. Panicle 8.5~20cm, narrow-cylindric, dense, spike-like, often tinged reddish-purple; rachis hairs short, soft. Spikelets 5~6mm, lanceolate, acute, pale green to purple, solitary or in clusters of 2~3 on ciliate pedicels to 3mm; involucre of numerous plumose, fine unequal bristles, one longer but not stouter bristle to 35mm. Lower glume a hyaline scale to 1mm or 0, upper 2~2.5mm, 1-nerved, hyaline, minutely scabrid. Lower floret male or sterile; lemma 4.5~5mm, 3-nerved, membranous, nerves minutely scaberulous near tip; palea = lemma, hyaline, rounded, keeled near tip, minutely scaberulous, or palea 0; anthers 2~3mm or 0. Upper floret hermaphrodite; lemma 5.5~6mm, 5-nerved, membranous, nerves scaberulous near mucronate tip; palea 4.5~5mm, hyaline, keels scarcely scaberulous near tip; lodicules .3~.4mm; anthers 2~3mm; styles connate, stigmas free; caryopsis approx. 3 x 1.2mm. (-Edgar & Connor, 2000)

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3060



Caption: *Pennisetum setaceum*

Photographer: ARC



Caption: *Pennisetum setaceum*

Photographer: ARC