

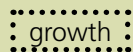


Pennisetum ciliare

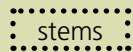
Poaceae
Buffelgrass



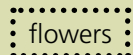
KEY CHARACTERISTICS



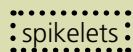
Warm season perennial bunchgrass often forming dense thickets. Reproduces by seed and rhizomes/stolons.



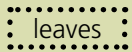
Erect or decumbent, often forming mats or tussocks. Erect stalks shoot out of dense, leafy clumps and can reach over 39 inches (avg 70 cm).



Dense, cylindric spikes 2-13 cm long by 1.0-2.6 cm wide; each with 30-50 bracts.



Solitary or clustered, and surrounded by numerous bristles. Clustered into burs (2 to 4 per bur), 2.5 - 4.5 mm long by 1.0 - 1.5 mm wide, lanceolate to ovate in shape, gray to green. Bristly flower heads range from 3.5-12 cm and can be purple, gray or yellowish turning a distinct golden brown when dry.



Blades are bluishgreen, 5-30 cm long and 2.5-11 mm wide; upper surface soft-hairy. Leaf sheaths hairless to sparingly soft haired; 2- 7 cm in length. Ligule ciliate, 0.5-1.5 mm.



Ovoid, 1.4 to 1.9 mm long by 1 mm broad



flower color

Elevation:

Not common above
4100 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:

Desertlands, grasslands & riparian areas.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Hardy, drought-resistant grass planted as a pasture grass throughout Texas and N. Mexico. In central Sonora, more than a million ha. of native desert scrub and thorn scrub have been converted to Buffelgrass pasture since the 1940s.

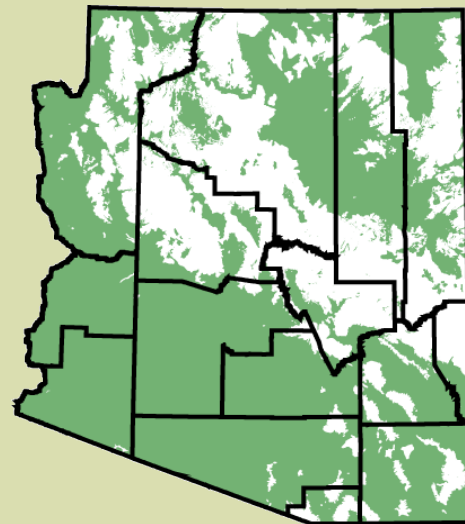
Well-established in disturbed and intact desert scrub communities in SW U.S., Hawaii, and Australia. Very successful in regions where annual precipitation ranges between 13-22 inches and the minimum winter temperature does not fall below 5C (41F). Most abundantly found in the plains of the Sonoran Desert; commonly found along rocky hillsides in desertscrub and xeroriparian communities near planted pastures and roadways.

Responds positively to fire and requires it to maintain a healthy population; will even burn while its still green and forms

new sprouts immediately after the flames die down. Competition is reduced by fire damage to native plants. Buffelgrass will move into the new territory and choke out all other plants, creating an area dominated by one species.



SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.