

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

growth

Very tall, erect, perennial ornamental grass which forms clumps which typically grow 9-12 ft tall and 4-6 ft wide. Similar in appearance to the less hardy Pampas grass.

Inflorescence

Plumes or inflorescences (to 24 inches long) appear in late summer on stiff, leafed stalks well above the foliage.

Plumes bloom purplish-bronze turning to silver-gray in fall and persist well into winter.

leaves

Narrow, 1 inch wide, gray-green leaf blades (to 30 ft long) with a **single white stripe** down the middle of each. Foliage turns bronze in fall.

Leaf blade < 12 mm wide, generally densely hairy near ligule, strongly serrate. Ligule < 1 mm long and thin.

spikelet

3.5-7 mm; stalked spikelet deciduous; glumes lanceolate, base densely silky-hairy; lemma awned, awn 3-5 mm.



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flower color

Elevation:
Unknown

Ecotypes Invaded:
Sonoran riparian.

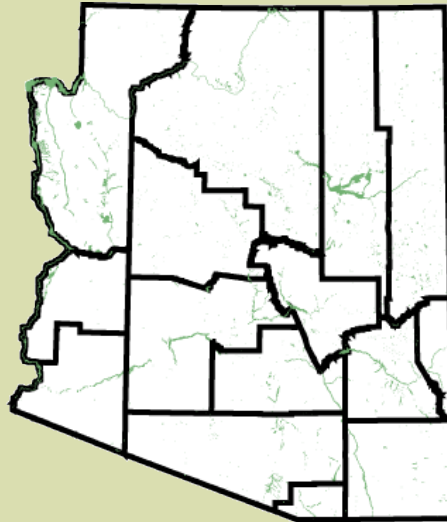
ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Currently known infestations in Arizona are limited to wet areas along streams, rivers and riparian areas adjacent to rivers and streams. Populations have been found in southeastern Arizona along portions of the Lower Colorado River and near Yuma.

Ravenna grass prefers sites that receive ample sunlight and have well-drained, damp soil. It appears to grow in vegetation-free areas along rivers, but it is also capable of growing under the canopy of other riparian plants and displacing native species. Ravenna grass is highly competitive and has formed monocultures in some invaded areas. This plant is larger and has more biomass than many riparian natives, which may increase the risk of fire.

This plant is sold as an ornamental across the southern US.

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.



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