

FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF NATIVE UPRIGHT 'TUSSOCKY' GRASSES

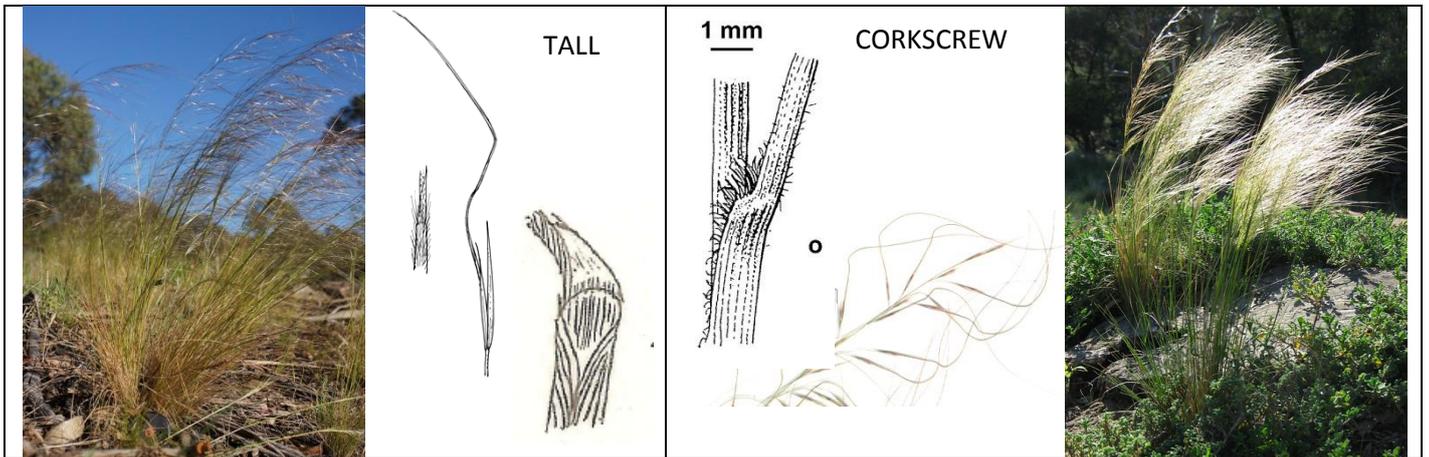
Spear grass (*Austrostipa spp.*) Seedheads look feathery from a distance; empty heads stay on plant for a long time. Flowerheads starts off purplish in spring (can be confused with CNG)

A. Tall speargrass (*Austrostipa bigeniculata*).

ID Features: Leaf is broader after rain but in-rolled when dry. **Tall** growing, leaves are dull green and **ribbed** but softer when young; scabrous (rough). Awns are **twice bent**. Tiny hairs on ligules.

B. Corkscrew speargrass (*Austrostipa scabra*).

ID Features: Leaf is generally rough, narrow and in-rolled. Seedheads are narrower than tall speargrass. Seed has a **sickle-shaped awn**. Auricle and leaf edge have **tiny hairs at leaf join**.



Wallaby grasses (*Austrodanthonia spp.*) There are MANY of these, most are small tussocks.

ID Features: Fine, rolled or flat leaves; grey-green; most have finely hairy leaves (can catch the light). Seed cases are **fluffy** looking and usually have **two bristles** and one awn. Fluffiness varies with species. Ligule with tufts of hair.



Red-anthered wallaby grass (*Austrodanthonia pallidum*)

ID Features: Very large tussock, usually in or adjoining forest. Leaves usually wide, long, stiff, rolling with age. Flowers have red anthers and seed heads and ligules are similar to other wallaby grasses.



Tussock grasses (*Poa* spp.) There are many of these, from small to large tussocks. Hard to distinguish. Flower heads open up into a panicle with age.

A. Snowgrass (*Poa sieberiana*)

ID Features: Fine, in-rolled grey-green leaves; usually rough to touch. Ligule (if present) is tiny and flat-topped (**no long hairs**). Seeds are **awnless**. Smaller and more delicate looking than river tussock.

B. River tussock (*Poa labillardierei*)

ID Features: Leaves rough on lower surface, folded or loosely in-rolled grey-green leaves; usually long and moderately rigid. **Leaf blade forms a 'shoulder' where it joins the stalk** and may be covered in tiny spines. Larger than snow grass. Flower head is an open panicle with erect or spreading branches. Grows in moist areas. Can be very large.



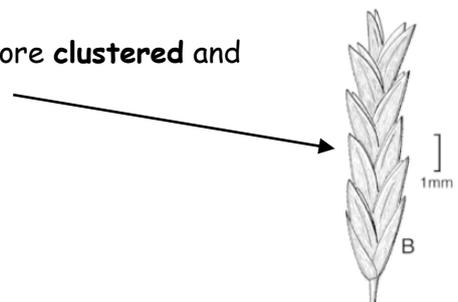
CONFUSING TUSSOCK GRASSES

Spear grass vs Chilean needle grass: CNG have **wider, flat leaves** with **visible hairs** on leaves

Poa vs spear grass : **Spear grasses** have **awns** in seedheads and **hairs** on ligules

Poa vs serrated tussock - Serrated tussock has a **papery ligule** and **awns** and **leaves that are not flat**; seed heads are very different

Poa vs African lovegrass - African lovegrass seedheads are more **clustered** and there are **hairs** on ligules.



FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF NATIVE 'BROAD LEAVED' GRASSES

Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*)

ID Features: Leaf is **folded** when young and **'V'** shaped; tip is pointed. Seed head is **spatheate** – not likely to confuse seed head. Can be green, to rusty red/orange or purple colour. Sometimes hairy on leaf margins or joins.



Redleg (*Bothriochloa macra*)

ID Features: Leaf stem is **rolled** when **young**. Seed head is **subdigitate** (spike-like but seed heads are pressed together at the lower end but will partly open with age). Has **reddish stalks** on flower stems, with purplish **elbows** that are low down; flower stems usually persist. Can have sparse hairs. Easy to confuse with kangaroo grass.



Windmill grass (*Chloris truncata*)

ID Features: Leaf has a **blunt tip** when folded. Seed head is **digitate but bigger and 'hairyer'** (has awns) than couch; leaf sheaths and stems are flattened and hairless.



Weeping grass (*Microleana stipoides*)

ID Features: Leaf tip is **pinched**. Flower stalks are **long and weeping**. Variable appearance according to season. Spreading, with rhizomes. Leaf junction (auricle) 'hugs' the stem, leaves a **'skirt'** when pulled away.



Hairy panic (*Panicum effusum*)

ID Features: Leaf is wide, sparsely hairy with long hairs spaced on leaf margin. Bleached with frost. Flower stems break easily when dried. **Two seeds** on end of each 'stem'. Scrappy looking.



CONFUSING EXOTIC BROAD LEAVED GRASSES

Chilean needle grass has **bristles** on **both sides** of each leaf face.

Couch (*Cynodon dactylon*) - has seedheads that could be confused with windmill grass but **forms a mat** unlike the native grasses

Goose grass (*Eleusine tristachya*) - similar to windmill grass until it has **seed heads** → - these are distinctive and are often present.



Phalaris (*Phalaris aquatica*) has **roundish stems** that can have reddish bases, broad blue-green leaves, long membranous ligules and **long dense seedhead**.

Cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) has **flattish stems** with a white base, broad hairless bluish leaves that are folded when young, membranous ligules and erect, **1-sided seedheads** that start tight but open up with age.



Phalaris (R) and Cocksfoot ((L)