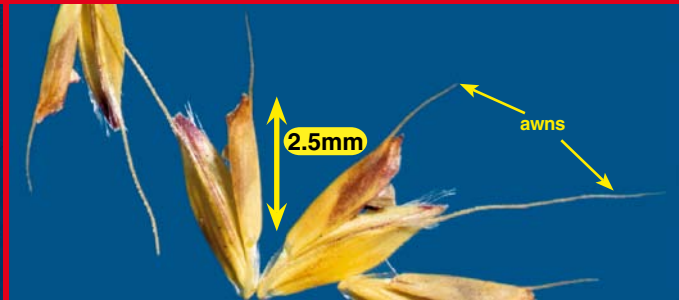
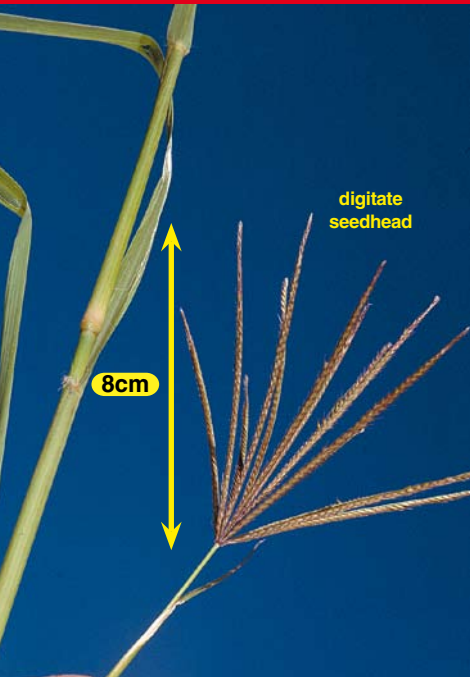


# RHODES GRASS

*Chloris gayana*

G13  
GRASS



# RHODES GRASS

*Chloris gayana*



**Alternative names:** Abyssinian Rhodes Grass, Callide Rhodes Grass, Common Rhodes Grass.

**Family:** Poaceae.

**Description:** A stoloniferous, sometimes tufted, C4 perennial that grows to about 1.5 metres, with a digitate seedhead. It spreads by stolons that root at the nodes and enable it to spread rapidly.

**Key features:** If ungrazed it flowers prolifically and in summer numerous heads comprising 6–18 radiating spikes (digitate seedhead) project above the leaves (see photo). Spikelets usually with 2 awns (see photo).

**Value:** Moderate energy and low crude protein, best managed through rotational grazing. Rhodes Grass can complement annual pastures as they grow actively at different times of the year. Responds to fertiliser, particularly nitrogen.

**Salinity and waterlogging tolerance:** Low to moderate tolerance to waterlogging and a low tolerance to salinity. The diploid types (Pioneer, Katambora, Top Cut and Fine Cut) have better salt tolerance than the tetraploids (e.g. Callide). New salt tolerant lines are being selected.

**Notes:** Native of southern Africa, introduced to Australia around 1900. Summer growing perennial. Seed will not germinate in winter in southern regions where it is usually sown in spring. Used extensively for erosion control on steep banks in eastern, not western, Australia.

**References:** *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 4, 1993. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 2, 1994. *Saltland Pastures in Australia*, Barrett-Lennard et al., 2003. Norman, et al., 2004. *Australian Journal of Agric. Research*, 55, 999–1007.

