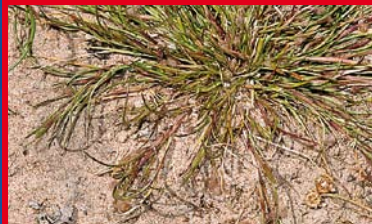


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SALTdeck Series

CURLY RYEGRASS

Parapholis incurva

G6
GRASS



CURLY RYEGRASS

Parapholis incurva



Alternative names: Coast Barbgrass, Curly Barbgrass, Curved Hardgrass, Curved Sea Hardgrass, Sickie Grass.

Family: Poaceae.

Description: Annual spreading grass to about 20 cm tall. Leaf blade to 2 mm wide and rough on upper surface and edges. Spikelets 1-flowered, in hollows on the axis and covered by 2 side-by-side glumes (see photo).

Key features: Distinguished by prostrate and ascending branched stems and numerous incurved seedheads to 10 cm long that are often purplish (see photo). Forms a characteristic clump of curled mature seedheads. May be confused with another introduced species, Common Barbgrass *Hainardia cylindrica*, but this plant has erect, straight seedheads and the spikelets in the hollows are covered by a single glume.

Value: A winter-spring grass that matures rapidly after flowering and breaks up. Eaten by stock when other more palatable forage is not present, but usually represents a small part of total feed available.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Tolerant of high salinity and grows in tidal saltmarshes. Colonises saline soils and will continue to grow when flooded for extended periods in winter and early spring.

Notes: Native of Mediterranean and western European coastlines.

References: *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 4, 1993. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 2, 1994. *Plants of Western NSW*, Cunningham et al., 1981.

