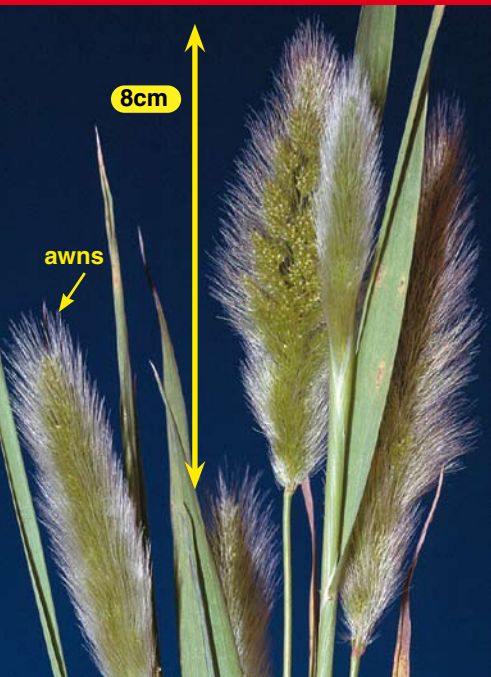


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SALTdeck Series

BEARD GRASS

Polypogon monspeliensis

G4
GRASS



BEARD GRASS

Polypogon monspeliensis



Family: Poaceae.

Description: Tufted annual grass to 90 cm tall. Leaves green, hairless, flat to 20 cm long and 2 cm wide. Flowerhead cylindrical, dense, with several short, erect, closely packed branches, initially enclosed in a sheath (see photo). The numerous minute spikelets are partly hidden by fine soft bristles (awns). Flowers mostly spring.

Key features: Soft, pale green flowerhead (see photo) that dries yellowish.

Value: Not highly regarded as a forage species, but young growth is palatable and where prolific, will provide useful early season forage.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Moderate to high tolerance to salinity. Will thrive in saturated soils and shallow temporarily flooded situations.

Notes: Introduced from Eurasia and North Africa and now widespread across temperate Australia. Thrives in wet situations and estuarine saltmarsh. Main growing period is winter through spring. Reported to host toxic fungi that can cause livestock poisoning. A major weed of saltmarsh in California.

References: *Flora of South Australia*, Jessop and Toelken (eds), Part 4, 4th edition 1986. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 2, 1994. *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 1, 1990. *Plants of Western NSW*, Cunningham et al., 1981.

