

# TALL WHEATGRASS

*Thinopyrum ponticum*

G16  
GRASS



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*Thinopyrum ponticum*

Sustainable  
Grazing on  
Saline Land



SALTdeck Series

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G16

**Alternative names:** *Thinopyrum elongatum*, *Agropyron elongatum*, *Lophopyron elongatum*.

**Family:** Poaceae.

**Description:** Deep rooted tussock-forming perennial to 1.3 m tall. Leaves to 50 cm long, 4–8 mm wide, hairless or with scattered hairs, with a scabrous point and margins.

**Key features:** Seedhead an unbranched spike to 30 cm long that breaks up at maturity, the spikelets placed with the flat side to the axis.

**Value:** The most common cultivar is Tyrrell; DPI Victoria in 2001 released a more leafy cultivar named Dundas. Slow to establish and should not be grazed in its first year. Responds to hard grazing and the application of nitrogen. Subsoil moisture or summer rainfall is necessary for good production. Highly productive and of high nutritive value (supports high animal growth rates) if kept vegetative and leafy, but will revert to low nutritive value and palatability (less than a maintenance feed) if allowed to grow rank and set seed. Can be highly invasive in wetland areas.

**Salinity and waterlogging tolerance:** Does not persist in soils that are waterlogged over spring and into summer. Grows in soils that have low to moderate salinity.

**Notes:** Native of southern and eastern Europe, western Asia. Used in rehabilitation projects where there are soils with moderate salinity (up to EC 30 dS/m).

**References:** *Saltland Pastures in Australia*, Barrett-Lennard, 2003. *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.

