



WANTED

VELDT GRASS

Ehrharta longiflora (Annual), *Ehrharta calycina* (Perennial)

Glossary

Annual

Completing the full cycle of germination to fruiting to a single year, and then dying.

Caespitose

Grows in dense tufts.

Inflorescence

The arrangement of the flowers and flower axes.

Perennial

With a life span extending over more than two growing seasons.

Rhizomes

A creeping stem, usually below ground from which new aerial shoots arise

Sheath

Clasping or enveloping the stem.

Tussocky

Dense or large tufts.

For More Information

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Introduction

E. calycina is a highly opportunistic grass, capable of overwhelming road verges, which is common in temperate regions of Australia and the Swan Coastal Plain.

It is rapidly becoming a major pest species on roadsides and bushland reserves.

E. longiflora is now a widespread and common weed of coastal areas and disturbed creeklines.

It is a widespread weed of offshore islands, coastal dunes and sandy soils.

Origin

South Africa.

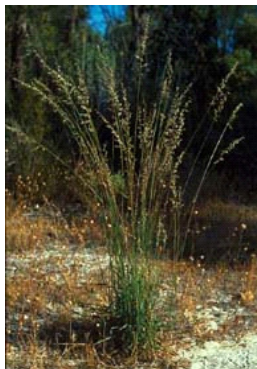
Lifeform

E. calycina: perennial grass
E. longiflora: annual grass.

Description

Caespitose; tussocky; up to 1.2 m tall.

Leaves: Blades with dark



stem clasping bases and a membranous tongue (Ligule) between blade and sheath.

Flowers: *E. longiflora*: Purple/green; loose inflorescence with large drooping spikelets.

E. calycina: reddish/purple heads; drooping; erect; 7-22 cm long.

Reproduction & Dispersal

Reproduces by seeds. The species seeds prolifically during the cooler months. *E. calycina* spreads via rhizomes as well.

Seed dispersal is facilitated by airborne means, water, birds and in the fur of animals.

Distribution

E. calycina: Geraldton - Esperance; scattered populations at Shark Bay and inland south along the Nullabor.

E. longiflora: More prevalent; Shark Bay - Esperance and inland.

Growing Season

E. Calycina: cooler months
Longiflora: Autumn-Spring.

Flowering Season

E. longiflora: July - December.

E. calycina: March - April

and August - September.

Effect on Ecosystem

The species is capable of invading and overwhelming native bushland vegetation.

Fire enhances seed germination.

Control

Manual Removal

Small populations are easy to hand-pull, as roots are very shallow, ensuring crown removal.

Avoid dumping garden refuse containing these grasses in areas where they may establish. Do not slash.

E. Longiflora: Prevent seed set for 2-3 years. Graze heavily and continually. Mow regularly, cultivate, hand weed or use herbicides to prevent seed set.

Chemical Treatment

Plants can be sprayed with grass selective herbicide over Autumn-Winter before flowering stems emerge. Follow-up treatment may be necessary. Spray seedlings within four to six weeks of emergence. In areas with native grasses, reduce the herbicide dose.

Please see 'Herbicides and Pesticides' factsheet for more information about spraying chemicals.

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