



Pará grass

Urochloa mutica (Forsk.) T.Q. Nguyen

Common Names: Pará grass, California grass, buffalo grass, water grass, Scotch grass, Carib grass, Mauritius grass, puakatau, signal grass

Native Origin: Africa

Description: A robust, stoloniferous perennial grass in the grass family (Poaceae) that grows 3-12 tall. The lower portion of the stem is decumbent and roots at the nodes. Nodes of the stem are swollen with dense hairs. The leaf sheath also has hairs that are often deciduous with age. Leaves are 10-12 inches long and 0.4-0.6 inches wide. The ligule is a collar of short stiff hairs. The inflorescence is a primary axis with alternately arranged "branches" that have numerous spikelets with a purple tint. Para grass reproduces from seed and vegetatively by creeping stolons.



Habitat: It flourishes in wet conditions, forms stolon mats 3 feet or more in depth and sends floating stems of 18 feet or more in length across slow-moving water. It is tolerant of drought and of brackish water, but susceptible to frost.

Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in FI and HI.



Ecological Impacts: This species was introduced into the United States as a forage grass and has become naturalized in cultivated and disturbed places with moist soils. Once established, it can spread horizontally by floating stolons into shallow water areas of lakes, ponds, and streams and form dense, floating mats. Floating mats of Pará grass can impede water flow in drainage ditches and irrigation canals, and restrict recreational activities and navigation in shallow water.

Control and Management:

- **Manual-** Hand removal, harvesting, rotation, cookie cutter or barge/cutting system, and flail chopper methods have been successful in helping to control this plant.
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or triclopyr. Follow label and state requirements.

References: www.forestimages.org, <http://plants.usda.gov>, www.nps.gov/plants/alien, www.plantatlas.usf.edu, <http://www.botany.hawaii.edu>, aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu/bramut.html, <http://el.erd.c.usace.army.mil/pmis/plants/html>, www.hear.org