

Mission grass, perennial

Cenchrus polystachios

Mission grass, perennial is declared a Class B (growth and spread to be controlled) and Class C (not to be introduced) weed in the Northern Territory.

Mission grass, perennial is a declared weed in accordance with the *Weeds Management Act*.

HABIT



Mission grass is a large, tough, perennial grass. The grass forms a loose clump to 3m high.

STEMS & BRANCHES



The stems are slender and fairly straight, sometimes rooting at the lower nodes.

LEAVES



The leaf blades are hairy and elongated to 45cm long and up to 18mm wide. Can have a red-purplish colour particularly when stressed. Will stay green long after native grasses have dried.

FLOWER SPIKE



Flower heads appear in the early dry season and are a dense spike, 5 - 26cm long and 1.3 - 2.6cm wide. Generally will have a golden colour.

SEED HEAD



Seeds are hairy on the lower half making them ideal for dispersal by wind, and on animals and vehicles. Flowering to seed maturity can occur in 14 days. Closely packed seeds on spike.

Weed Management Officers from the Weed Management Branch can provide advice on all aspects of weed management including control techniques, biological control, legislative responsibilities, policy advice, monitoring and reporting and regional planning. For further information on weed management planning, integrated control, herbicide application techniques and monitoring please refer to the [NT Weed Management Handbook](#).