

# GRASS IDENTIFICATION TIPS

## (To distinguish natives from Buffelgrass)

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### *Aristida ternipes* – Spidergrass

- Erect (growing tall and upward), clumped, with fine, wiry stems
- Seeds on panicles (a branched cluster of seed-bearing spikelets)
- Seed spikelets attach to stem at right angles (90°) and are naked to seed at end

### *Aristida purpurea* – Purple threeawn

- Slender erect growth, clumped, with fine stems
- If seeds are present, can easily be distinguished by the three awns.
- Seed heads are pink and typically nodding.

### *Bothriochloa barbinodis* – Cane beardgrass

- A large bunchgrass
- Shock of white inflorescence clearly visible at top of seedhead
- Ring of hairs at the nodes

### *Bouteloua curtipendula* – Sideoats grama

- Seeds attached along single stem, each distinctly visible
- Seedheads appears wavy when no seeds are attached

### *Pappophorum mucronulatum* – Whiplash pappusgrass

- Erect (growing tall and upward)
- Distinct seeds attach directly to rachis, appear 'parachute-like' or 'fuzzy-topped' when removed from rachis

### *Setaria macrostachya/ leucopila* – Plains bristlegrass

- Erect (growing tall and upward) or clumped
- Slender seed spikes
- Individual plump oval seeds are easily visible

### *Digitaria californica* – Arizona cottontop

- Moderately dense perennial grass
- Knotty, felty base
- Seed spikes slender with flattened, oval seeds
- Seeds have distinctive white silky hairs
- Spikes appear zig-zag once seeds drop
- Older plants can look like BG when dry

### *Erioneuron pulchellum* – Fluffgrass

- Typically grows close to ground
- Spikelets appear white and 'fluffy' (flowers March – October)

### *Muhlenbergia porteri* – Bush muhly

- Sprawling perennial grass
- Delicate, many-branched stems
- Typically, seed spikelets attach to stem at right angles (90°)
- Tiny pink seeds in nebulous clusters

### *Heteropogon contortus* – Tanglehead

- Very erect (growing tall and upward) perennial grass
- Dark brown seeds with long tangled awns
- Orange-bronze leaf blades when dry
- Leaves are typically broader than BG