

## Poaceae

### *Chrysopogon fallax* golden beard grass



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#### ETYMOLOGY

(criz-oPO-gon) Greek chrysos = gold + pogon = beard; The Latin species fallax = deceptive; Closely resembling another species.

#### LIFEFORM

Grass 30-120 cm

#### STATUS

Widespread subtropical, tropical and arid zones of most mainland states; in open forests

#### OCCURS

Mt, Gravatt, Bundaberg Qld, NSW, Lake Eyre SA, Port Hedland WA, Alice Springs NT

#### QLD DISTRICTS

Burke, Burnett, Cook, Darling Downs, Gregory North/South, Leichhardt, Maranoa, Mitchell, Moreton, North/South Kennedy, Port Curtis, Warrego, Wide Bay

#### HABITAT

Watercourse, swamp, Creek lines, low lying runoff

#### LEAVES

Blades, 40 cm, long narrow ribbon-like concentrated at base, fan-shaped sheath disintegrating breaking up into fibres curved over bright green keeled along the midrib, strongly folded when dry lower leaf portion often very hairy.

#### FLOWERS

Panicle, 15-20 x 10 cm, slightly spreading on top of seed stalks, purplish usually a light golden brown colour; **Flowering times** Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April, May, June, Grains 1 cm, floret 9mm bent 2-4 mm awns with tuft of golden brown around spear-like base & a reddish brown, twisted stout hair 4 cm at the other end.

#### FRUIT

**Fruiting times** Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April

#### ROOTS

Fibrous hairy butt connected to underground rhizomatous deep rooted, vigorous swollen root system similar to nutgrass.

#### STEM

Erect tufted perennial: Base fibrous stringy almost woolly which is very difficult to pull out;

#### ETHNOBOTANY

Indicator of good range condition; important component of pasture in watercourses and creek-lines useful in stabilising soils for erosion control; Fodder palatable when young and green during growing season as plant dries nutritive levels drop markedly.

#### TOLERANCE

Full sun; Resistant to drought and heavy grazing

#### WILDLIFE

Known food plant for Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat; providing habitat for fauna, and seed. Roots are often dug up and eaten by Wallabies.

#### BIRD

Long-tailed Finch (seeds)

#### BUTTERFLY

*Melanitis leda* Evening Brown; *Telicota colon* Pale Orange Darter

#### INDIGENOUS USES

New shoots dug up smashed up, boiled in water. Drunk to treat diarrhoea and stomach illness.

#### ID FEATURE

Leaves curved over base + Sharp leaf edges & pointed new shoots cut your feet + hairless node.