

Poaceae

Dichelachne micrantha

short-hair plume grass



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ETYMOLOGY

(di-kel-ACK-nee) Greek dichelos = split + achne = chaff; referring to 2 lobed flowering glume; The species micrantha (my-CRAN-thah) from Greek micros = small + anthos = a flower, in allusion to the small florets.

LIFEFORM

Grass 70-90 cm

STATUS

All states except NT; Distributed from tropic of Capricorn Qld, NSW, Vic, SA, WA, Tas

OCCURS

Durikai S F Qld, NSW, Yarra Vic, SA, WA, Tas (NG, NZ, Lord Howe/Norfolk/Easter Islands)

QLD DISTRICTS

Burnett, Cook, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Maranoa, Moreton, Port Curtis, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Dry open woodlands, Valleys, rocky country

LEAVES

Blades, 8-25 cm x 5-7 mm slender short rough flat, dark green, grey-green, mainly basal.

FLOWERS

Panicles 8-20 cm dense, spike-like, lobed at base, branches scabrous, hidden by spikelets. stiff white hairs, looser at base, becoming denser with age. Flowering 4-10 months after fire

Flowering times March, April, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov

FRUIT

Awn 1-1.8cm thickened and twisted near base, abruptly bent 1-seeded; change from green, reddish to the straw when maturity; tall nodding seedhead awns black 30mm straight but twisted when seed is ripe; **Fruiting times** Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan

STEM

Tufted perennial grass; Stems slender, erect, hairless with nodes, generally very dark.

ETHNOBOTANY

Fodder, Useful component of pasture use as a forage produce leaf growth during winter. Persist poorly under heavy grazing. Stems used in paper manufacture.

LANDSCAPE USE

Interesting ornamental grass for gardens small dense tussocks, used of native landscaping

TOLERANCE

Drought resistant

ID FEATURE

Leaves with short hairs + Inflorescence dense only slightly feathery; Awn 1-2 cm, bent when dry.