

## Poaceae

### *Microlaena stipoides* weeping grass



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## ETYMOLOGY

(my-cro-LEEN-a) Greek mikros = small + laina = cloak; alluding to the 2 minute outer glumes; The species stipoides = with a stipe or stalk.

## LIFEFORM

Grass 10-15 cm

## OCCURS

Cape York Qld to NSW, Vic, Tas, NT, SA, WA (NZ, NG, Asia, Mal)

## QLD DISTRICTS

Burnett, Cook, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Moreton, North/South Kennedy, Port Curtis, Wide Bay

## HABITAT

Shady damp forests, around buildings

## LEAVES

Blades, 4-15 cm x 3-5 mm, linear to narrow-lanceolate, hairless flat, rolled in bud, glabrous or sparsely hairy on lower surface, midvein prominent, bases expanded into lobes: Ligule short membranous rim fringed collar <0.5 mm with hairs near margins.

## FLOWERS

Raceme, 5-20 cm, drooping with widely-spaced, 2 cm awns long-pointed; Spikelets (1 fertile + 2 sterile) finely stalked. **Flowering Time** Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March

## FRUIT

Glumes 1 mm, 1-nerved. Sterile lemma rigid rough along keel, 3-7 nerved, both tapering into long, slender, scabrid awn. Fertile lemma shorter, **awnless** but acutely pointed, 5-7nerved, keeled with short spines on upper half **Fruiting Times** Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April

## ROOTS

Tufted scaly rhizomes

## ETHNOBOTANY

Valuable for maintaining stock in dry times. Produces high quality feed makes good hay. All year round green growth.

## WILDLIFE

Kangaroos, Wallabies are nature's lawn mowers,

## INSECTS

*Glyphipterix chrysoplanetis* (Moth)

## BIRDS

Seeds eaten by Peaceful Dove, Bar-shoulder Dove, Finches (Neil, J.2002)

## BUTTERFLY

Caterpillar food for Dispar Skipper, Common Brown, Spotted Brown, Common Silver Xenica, White Grass-dart. *Oreixenica lathonella*, Ringed Xenica, *Geitoneura acantha*, *Heteronympha paradelpha* Spotted Brown, *Toxidia doubledayi*, *Taractrocera papyria*, *Ocybadistes hypomeloma*, *Charaxes latona* Orange Emperor, *Geitoneura kulgii* Marbled Xenica, *Oreixenica lathoniella*