

Poaceae
Themeda triandra
kangaroo grass

Ann Moran
Field Botanist



ETYMOLOGY

(THEEM-ed-a) Abrabic thaemed a depression where water lies after rain and dries out in summer; The species triandra = with 3 stamens.

LIFEFORM

Grass 20-80 cm

OCCURS

Sunshine Coast Qld to NSW, Vic, SA, Pilbara WA, NT

QLD DISTRICTS

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

HABITAT

Open forest, grassland

LEAVES

Blades, 15-30 cm x 3-4 mm, yellowish green, flecked with brown-red colours & crimped edge, distributed hairs near base of leaf blade; linear flat, hairless. Ligule 1 mm hairy.

FLOWERS

Heads, 25 mm, branched, male spikelets up 12 mm, hairless. Lemmas of male and sterile spikelets similar to glumes. Glumes of bisexual spikelets, 8 mm, hairy only near tip. Lemmas of bisexual spikelets 15 mm, one of which extends into 6 cm long black awn.

Flowering Times Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan

FRUIT

Seeds are called grains, low quantities of viable seed 50kg/ha.

Fruiting Times Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March

ROOTS

Fibrous Roots

STEM

Slender wiry 80cm stem hollow interrupted by nodes

LANDSCAPE USES

Ornamental potential usage in landscaping, gardens, bank stabilization to prevent soil erosion; intolerant to over-burning/grazing being replaced by other grasses in revegetation

WILDLIFE

Fodder for Wallabies, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, habitat for many animals

INSECTS

Grasshoppers, Daddy Longlegs, spiders and mites.

BIRDS

Zebra Finch, Cockatiel

BUTTERFLY

Food for caterpillars of *Melanitis leda* Evening Brown *Geitoneura acantha* Ringed Xenica, *Hypocysta adiante* Orange Rringlet, *Geitoneura klugii* Marbled Xenica, *Mycalesis terminus* Orange Bush-brown *Ocybadistes walkeri* Common Brown, *Heteronympha penelope* Shouldered Brown *Geitoneura acantha* Ringed Xenica, *Geitoneura klugii* Klug's Xenica,

INDIGENOUS USES

Stem and leaves used to make fibre for string which was made into fishing nets.