

## Poaceae

### *Eragrostis leptostachya*

paddock love-grass



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#### ETYMOLOGY

(erra-GROS-tiss) Greek eros = love + agrostis = grass; The species leptostachya = from Greek leptos + narrow + stachys = ear of corn

#### LIFEFORM

Grass 75cm

#### STATUS

Occurs in Qld, NSW Vic. Rare, Known in Bairnsdale Vic; from Eucalyptus tereticornis forest remnants near Stratford and Briagolong in Gippsland were indigenous,

#### OCCURS

Jericho, Qld to Mittagong NSW, Gippsland Vic

#### QLD DISTRICTS

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

#### HABITAT

Open forest, Woodland, Brigalow, Pastures

#### LEAVES

Blades, 20 cm x 4 mm, linear flat inrolled, Ligule hairy on margin.

#### FLOWERS

Spikelets with 6-12 flowers, 12 mm, flat. Glumes & lemmas ovate, 2 mm, open, branched, chaffy flower head spreading with herringbone arrangement of seeds;

**Flowering times** Jan, Feb, March, April

#### FRUIT

Type of veins in husks pedicels encircled by yellow bands joints along arms of seedhead;

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

#### STEM

Tufted, unpleasant-smelling perennial grass

#### ETHNOBOTANY

Fodder, Regarded as one of the commonest pasture grasses in coastal areas in early 20th century

#### TOLERANCE

Full sun

#### WILDLIFE

Leaves eaten by Eastern Grey Kangaroo;

#### BIRD

Seeds eaten by Peaceful Dove, Bar-shoulder Dove

#### INDIGENOUS USES

Seed paste used as medicine;

#### ID FEATURE

Panicle branches not thickened + Flower stalks encircled by yellow bands + Grain truncate, spikelets leaden-green, lemmas 1.5-1.75 mm, opaque;