

Bothriochloa pertusa

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Liliopsida	Cyperales	Poaceae

Common name hurricane grass (English), Barbados sour grass (English), Antigua hay (English), pitted beard grass (English), Indian couch grass (English), Comagueyana (Spanish), pitted bluestem (English)

Synonym *Andropogon pertusus* , (L.) Willd
Holcus pertusus , L.

Similar species

Summary *Bothriochloa pertusa* is a perennial grass that has been introduced to many Caribbean islands and Australia. It has established itself in many native savannah, shrubland and riparian biotas where it is able to out compete many native species due to its ability to establish new individuals via stolon growth. In these areas it establishes dense mats and shades out any slower establishing species. In Australia it is used as a stock feed due to its ability to establish in the poor dry soils of Northern Queensland.



[view this species on IUCN Red List](#)

Species Description

Wagner *et al* (1999; as seen in PIER, 2008) describes *Bothriochloa pertusa* as a "sprawling perennial... 30-100m tall, hollow, freely branching, (leaves) 0.7-1.2mm long; blades 3-4mm wide, with scattered, elongate, papillose-based hairs along margins and above ligule. Inflorescences terminal, often purplish,... 2-5cm long". For images of the species please click on the following link [Images: *Bothriochloa pertusa*](#)

Uses

A study by Hall & Walker (1994) assessed *Bothriochloa pertusa* potential use as a food source for grazing livestock in the northern areas of Queensland, Australia. It was found that in these dry grassland conditions, *B. pertusa* was well suited to handle grazing, competition and limited resources; which should have highlighted its potential as an invasive species. Not only did it produce the longest stolons (1.6m) but after 5 years it had also spread the most (2.7m). After 5 years it had also shown to have suppressed growth of exotic legumes, and caused native grasses to disappear from some plots. It is now an established invasive species within both Northern and Central Queensland. *B. pertusa* is also used for erosion control, a revegetator and has potential as a lawn/turf species. It is also a primary feed for Rusa Deer (*Cervus timorensis russa*) on New Caledonia (Spaggiari & Garine-Wichatitsky, 2006).

Reproduction

Bothriochloa pertusa can reproduce by both seed and stolon growth (Hall & Walker, 1994).

Management Info

Physical: On the USA, Virgin Islands it has been suggested that *Bothriochloa pertusa* should be mechanically removed and the area immediately replanted with native seedlings of suitable trees and taller shrubs, which will prevent this shade intolerant grass from re-establishing itself (McNair & Lombard, 2004), however the applicability of this solution to other locations is not known.

Principal source:

Compiler: IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment

Review:

Publication date: 2010-06-02

ALIEN RANGE

[1] ANGUILLA	[2] AUSTRALIA
[1] BAHAMAS	[4] CAYMAN ISLANDS
[1] FRENCH POLYNESIA	[1] MAURITIUS
[1] MEXICO	[2] NEW CALEDONIA
[1] NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	[1] PUERTO RICO
[1] SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	[1] SAINT LUCIA
[13] UNITED STATES	[1] UNITED STATES MINOR OUTLYING ISLANDS
[1] VIRGIN ISLANDS, U.S.	

Red List assessed species 1: CR = 1;

[Ameiva polops](#) CR

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[IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group \(ISSG\), 2010. A Compilation of Information Sources for Conservation Managers.](#)

Summary: This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.

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