

Perennial C4 grass, 60-150 cm high, tending to grow in swards.  
This is one of the earliest summer grasses to run up to seed. In CW NSW this is in December, the optimal time for harvesting is usually Christmas Day.  
Plants in their first year of life seem to seed in late Autumn.  
Having good levels of protein, stock must become accustomed to it before it is palatable to them. Probably the gut microbes need to adjust.  
Kangaroo grass grows on most soil types, from rocky hill sides to river flats.  
Heavy grazing can cause it to be lost from a grassland system.

# Kangaroo Grass

*Themeda australis*

## Identification

Often highly coloured from blue or pale green during growth to reddish-brown at maturity.

**Stems** erect, smooth, hairless, sometimes branched, 2 to 6 noded.

**Leaves** grow from base and from stems, 15-20 cm long, 2-5 mm wide, erect rather stiff, with rough edges and a prominent mid-vein.

**Seedhead** loose interrupted panicle, 10-25 cm long, often reddish tinted, erect.

**Flowering** spring and summer.

