

## Palm grass, bristlegrass

## *Setaria palmifolia*, Poaceae



- large grass
- grows to 2 m tall
- forms dense clumps over large areas excluding native species from establishing
- large elliptical leaves (up to 75 cm long) with parallel veins are distinctively pleated and resemble palm leaves
- leaf sheaths have prickly, irritating hairs
- flower head is bristle-like
- long-lived seed is dispersed by birds and wind
- forms dense rhizome mass
- rhizomes re-sprout quickly and vigorously
- prefers wet soils but can survive dry shade
- native to India



**Control:** Small clumps can be dug out. The roots are very strong so extraction is difficult. Protective clothing should be worn. Palm grass is extremely difficult to kill and regular checking for re-growth from rhizomes and seed is required. Plant material should be carefully disposed of at a landfill or burnt.



Photos: bottom right, N. Henderson, WeedFree Trust; remainder, A. Stanton.

