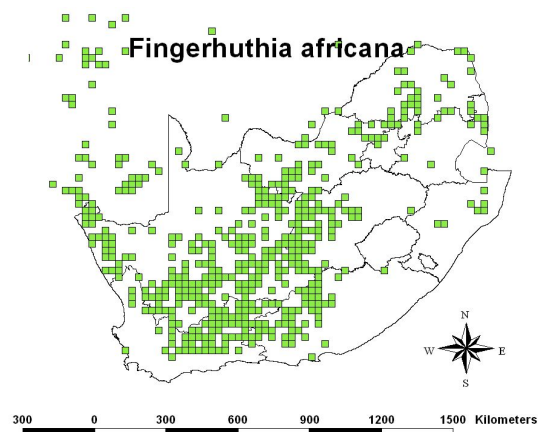


# *Fingerhuthia africana*

Common name: vingerhoedgras, thimble grass,  
Borseltjiegras, kalkgras, klossiegras, haargras

Family: Poaceae

Habitat: Widespread and commonly found in  
limestone or gravelly soils.



Map based on PRECIS data from <http://sibis.sanbi.org/>

Plant description: Glaucous green grass, leaves  
4-6 mm wide, hard. Matures and seeds in 1 year.

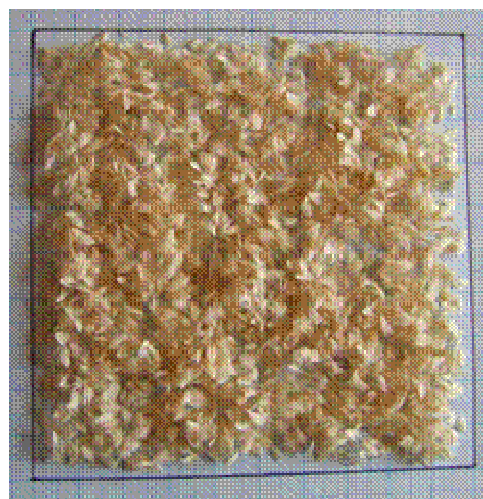
Palatability: ★★ moderate

Seed description: Seeds are enclosed in flattened  
spikelets. There are up to 200 seeds in hairy,  
thimble-shaped inflorescence.

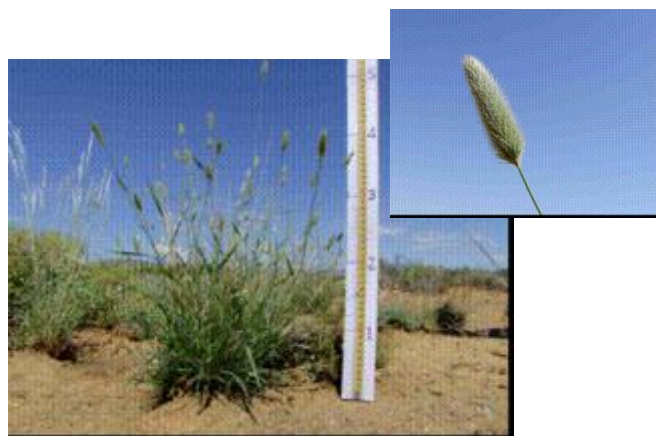
Viable seeds per kg: 273,680

Seed mass recommended per hectare: 6 kg

**When and how to plant:** spring-summer-autumn  
Roughen soil with a spade or implement. Mix seed  
with equal quantity of chaff or sawdust. To obtain  
even coverage, measure area to be sown into quarter  
hectare blocks (100 m x 25 m or 50 m x 50 m) and sow  
1 kg of seed (2 kg of seed-chaff mix) onto each quarter  
hectare. Roll or trample the sown area to press the  
seed firmly onto the soil or rake the sown area with a  
rake or thorn branch. Cover the whole of the sown  
area with thorn branches to protect seedlings from  
livestock or game.



Scale: 1cm



Scale: 1 decimeter

The photo below shows establishment of *Fingerhuthia africana* on a mine site, between Douglas and Hopetown, Northern Cape 6 months after seeding carried out in November 2008



## References

- PRECIS data on southern African plant distributions and taxonomy  
<http://sibis.sanbi.org/faces/SearchSpecies/>
- Van Oudtshoorn, F., 2006. Guide to grasses of Southern Africa.  
Briza Publications. Pretoria.
- Renu-Karoo unpublished data