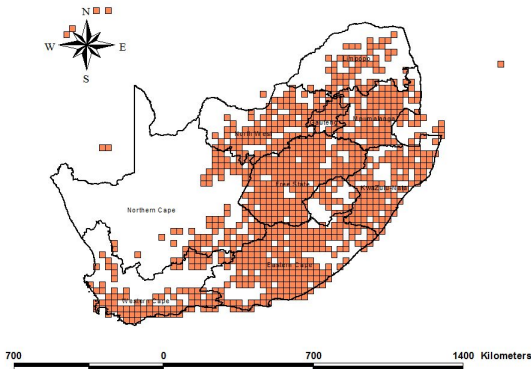


Themeda triandra

Common name: rooigras,

Family: Poaceae

Habitat: Widespread on sandy to loamy soils in summer and winter rainfall areas with annual rainfall exceeding 400mm.



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

Plant description: Leafy blue-green grass, leaves 3-6 mm wide, tender. Matures and seeds in 1 year. Long-lived but requires grazing, burning or annual cutting to maintain productivity and prevent senescence

Palatability: ★★★★★ high

Seed description: Seeds are dark brown to black, 5-7 mm long, with a twisted awn on the top and a sharp point on the end that enters the soil.

Viable seeds per gram cleaned seed: ca. 200

Seed mass recommended per hectare: 2.5-5.0 kg

When and how to plant: Germinates only in warm wet weather. Sow from October-December (25-30 deg. C). Roughen soil with a spade or implement to 5 cm depth. If sowing sickle-cut or baled rooigras, spread the stems evenly to cover 50-80% of the soil surface (about 0.5 to 1.0 tons/ha).

If sowing cleaned seeds, apply at a rate of 30-60 seeds/sq.m. (2.5 to 5.0 kg/ha) and mulch with cut grass. Cover the whole of the sown area with thorn branches to protect seedlings from livestock or game or fence game and livestock out.



Themeda triandra in savanna near Kimberley



Scale: 1cm

Detail of seeds with awns

Germination time 7-10 days

References

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- Van Oudtshoorn, F., 2006. Guide to grasses of Southern Africa. Briza Publications. Pretoria.
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