

Pennisetum polystachion

WEST INDIAN PENNISETUM

Poaceae

Common Synonyms: *Cenchrus polystachios*, *Cenchrus setosus*, *Panicum polystachion*

FLEPPC Category: 2

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: Yes

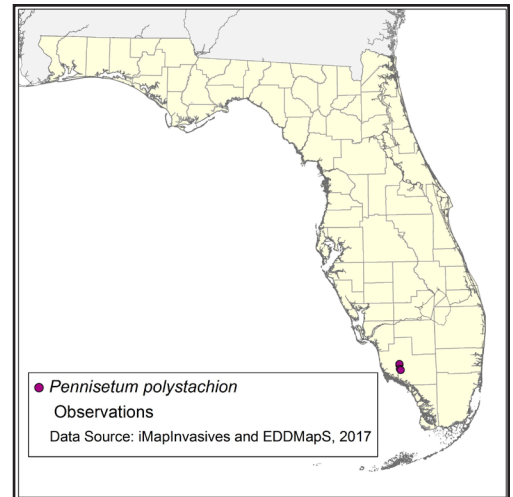
IFAS Assessment

North	PROHIBITED
Central	PROHIBITED
South	PROHIBITED

USDA Hardiness Zone: 8b-11a

Growth Habit: Graminoid

Origin: Africa



Forest and Kim Starr, Starr Environmental, Bugwood.org

Description: An annual or short-lived perennial grass that reaches up to 2 m high. Blades are linear and up to 55 cm in height. Glabrous or pubescent near the base. Sheath margins and ligules are pubescent. Flowering occurs from summer to fall. Inflorescences are upright, spike-like panicles to 35 cm long and are yellow, brown, or purple in color. Spikelets up to 5 mm long.

Napier grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) is a clump forming grass up to 4 m tall, found along shorelines in wet to dry soils.

Habitat: Disturbed sites.

Florida Introduction Date: Earliest Florida voucher 1997

Control Methods: .

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Useful Resources:

Comments: Spreads primarily through seeds, although can spread vegetatively through stem segments.