



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Crowsfoot grass (461)

Relates to: **Weeds**



Photo 1. Crowsfoot grass, *Eleusine indica*, coastal setting.



Photo 2. Low-growing single plant, crowsfoot grass, *Eleusine indica*.



Photo 3. Close-up of the ligule at the junction of sheath and leaf blade, crowsfoot grass, *Eleusine indica*.



Photo 4. Spikelets of crowsfoot grass, *Eleusine indica*, containing the flowers, along a central stem.



Photo 5. Flowerhead, crowsfoot grass, *Eleusine indica*.

Summary

- Widespread. Asia, Africa, North, South and Central America, Caribbean, Europe, Oceania. In many Pacific islands.
- Grows vigorously and produces many seeds. Invasive in cultivated (cotton, maize, upland rice, sweet potato and sugarcane) and other disturbed locations and natural areas, such as the margins of natural forests and grasslands, marshes, streams, coastal areas,

and roadsides.

- Grows relatively flat, reaching to 40 cm high. Stems and leaf sheaths flattened. Leaves, bright green, up to 15 cm long, flat to V-shaped. Ligule short (at meeting of sheath and blade). Flowers, in spikelets along 3-8 central stems, one usually attached 1 cm below others. Seeds, reddish brown to black. Well-developed root system.
- Spread: seeds; wind; water, contamination of crop seed; on fur of animals, machinery and vehicles.
- Biosecurity: moderately high risk of introduction; seed contaminant.
- Biocontrol: No successes reported.
- Cultural control: hand weed or hoe; vehicle hygiene.
- Chemical control: in Australia: quizalofop-p-ethyl (and Fiji); MCPA (and Fiji); trifluralin; fluazifop; pendimethalin; isoxaflutole; metribuzin; diuron; clethodim; oxyfluorfen; glyphosate. Seek advice on resistance management.

Common Name

Crowsfoot grass; it is also known as crow's foot, goosegrass, bullgrass, crabgrass, wire frass, and many more.

Scientific Name

Eleusine indica. It is a member of the Poaceae.

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Adapted from Crowsfoot grass (*Eleusine indica*) (2018) Weeds of SE Qld and Northern NSW. Lucidcentral. (<https://www.lucidcentral.org/editors-pick-animal-and-plant-identification-keys/key-to-weeds-of-se-qld-and-northern-nsw>); and additional information from CABI (2019) *Eleusine indica* (goose grass). Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/20675#toPictures>); and from *Eleusine indica* (2014) Useful Tropical Plants. (<http://tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Eleusine+indica>). Photos 1&2 Forest and Kim Starr, Starr Environmental, Bugwood.org. Photos 3&4 Bruce Ackley, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org. Photo 5. Taur'olunga *Eleusine indica*_closeup (Wikipedia).

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