

the **T H I S T L E**

Park County Weed and Pest Control District

July/Aug. 2016

Ventanata Grass Found in Sheridan County!

Ventanata grass (*Ventanata dubia*) is an aggressive winter annual native to southern Europe, western Asia and northern Africa. Other names: Wiregrass, North Africa grass. First documentation of this species in North America was in 1952 in Washington State. According to Brian Mealor Director and Associate Prof UW Sheridan Research and Extension Center, stated that there were reports as early as 1997 of this species: however, they appear to be located in a different drainage. He goes on to say *“it (ventanata grass) appears to be coexisting, perhaps competing, with cheatgrass and Japanese brome on the site. It appears that this population has likely been present for ~20 years. It is easily mistaken for cheatgrass or Japanese brome when driving or walking by. It has been observed to displace cheatgrass on locations in Washington and Idaho.”*

Impacts

Ventanata is beginning to replace perennial grasses and forbs along roadsides and in hay, pasture, range and CRP fields in the western U.S. In addition to having minimal forage value for livestock or wildlife due to its high silica content, ventanata is also undesirable because due to its shallow root system a gradual decline of productivity and land value occurs.

Vectors

Ventanata is spread primarily as a contaminant of Kentucky bluegrass, hay and annual crops. In addition, ventanata is found along roadsides and likely is moved along the transportation corridors where it has opportunities to move into surrounding areas. It can also be spread by humans and animals due to having long awns.

Control

Ventanata can be difficult to control with common weed management tools such as foliar herbicides, tillage, and mowing, and therefore requires more integrated methods for effective control. For more information on controlling this species, contact your local extension office or weed and pest district.



Identifying Ventanata

Ventanata is a winter annual grass that germinates in the late fall and produces a seed head the following spring, about one month after annual weedy brome species (cheatgrass). Ventanata grows to be 6-18" tall and has several distinguishing characteristics:

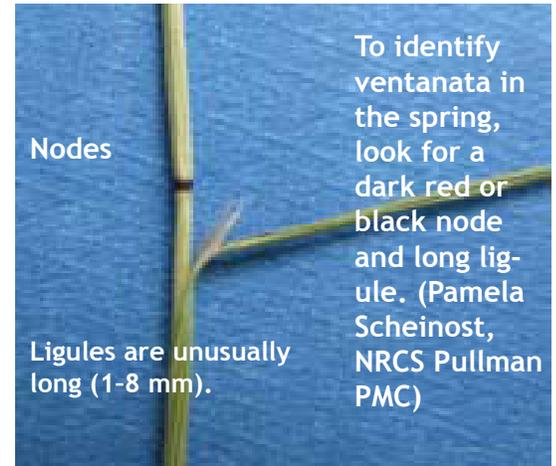
Early Season (May-June)

- Plants are vibrant green.
- Roots are shallow.

Late Season (June-August)

- Plants are silvery-green, then turn tan.
- Stems are wiry with few leaves.
- Panicles are open.
- Awns are bent when dry.

Pamela Scheinost, Mark Stannard, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Pullman Plant Materials Center; Tim Prather, University of Idaho.



http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_vedu.pdf

Don't be fooled by this invader! Commonly mistaken for Shasta daisy, Oxeye daisy is an extremely aggressive invader. Know Before You Grow!

INVASIVE

Oxeye daisy *leucanthemum (vulgare)* AKA- Alaska daisy



NON-INVASIVE

Shasta daisy (*Leucanthemum × superbum*)



COst share is Available for Most Noxious species!

Powell 307-754-4521 or Cody 307-527-8885