



EDUCATE

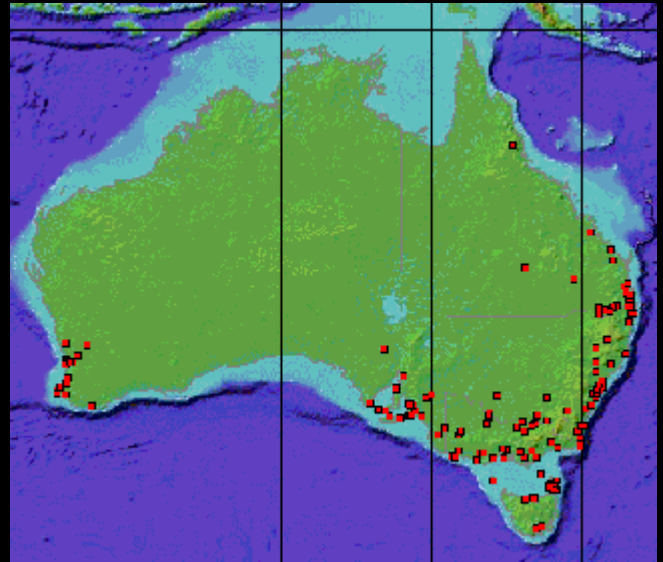
DESIGN

CONSULT



Kikuyu

Pennisetum Clandestinum



Courtesy of Australian virtual herbarium

Description: A creeping, aggressive, coarse, perennial lawn grass spreading by runners and with seed heads that are hidden within the leaf structure and only showing long, white, thread like stamens at flowering in summer. Native to eastern Africa, it is a common lawn grass and pasture

As A Soil Indicator: Very low Calcium, Very low Phosphorus, High Potassium, Very high Magnesium, Very high Iron, Low humus in the soil, Compacted soils, Little bacteria

Life cycle: Annual or short lived perennial. Seeds germinate from autumn to spring and it grows mainly in the cooler months. It usually flowers in spring and dies after flowering finishes in summer.

Beneficial: Palatable fodder. Stems and root have been known to be eaten. Leaves and shoots eaten as cooked vegetable. Family: Asteraceae which is known to attract beneficial insects like ladybeetles. Can be used as a sacrificial plant

Detrimental: Weed of vegetables, gardens, orchards, cultivation, fine lawns, rotation crops, perennial crops, grass lands, swamps, wetlands, dunes, riparian, bushland, and disturbed areas. Impedes water flows in drains. Fire hazard and it is difficult to extinguish old stands. It forms dense mats and smothers most other species and prevents recruitment of over-storey species. It is listed as one of the "Worlds worst weeds"

Toxicity: Usually safe to graze. It can contain potentially toxic levels of nitrates in lush growth under high nitrogen and good growing conditions. Contains oxalates. Horses and cattle are more susceptible than sheep.