

Cymbopogon species

Cymbopogon ambiguous – Native Lemongrass

Cymbopogon citratus - Lemongrass

Cymbopogon refractus – Barbed Wire Grass

Cymbopogon refractus commonly known as barbed wire grass grows widely across eastern Australia in QLD, NSW, VIC and NT in woodlands and grasslands in full sun to partial shade. It is found growing on poor or low nutrient soils but also grows in a wide range of soil textures from sands to clays. It is sometimes found in drier inland locations on lighter soils and stony slopes and along the edge of watercourses.

It has reasonable fodder value provided grazing pressure is not too heavy - it does not survive set stocking or intense grazing.

It is an attractive species, with striking seed heads and the crushed foliage has a pleasant lemony scent. Flowers mostly from Spring to Autumn. The plants are long-lived (5 - 25 years) and are very tolerant of low nutrient and dry sites and waterlogged sites, making it a suitable species to rehabilitate disturbed sites with rocky or skeletal substrates, such as eroded sites, quarries or mines.

Propagation

Fresh seed germinates readily and shows no dormancy but should not be buried deeply. Seed should be sown into a weed-free seedbed in early Spring, or later with irrigation or summer rainfall. The seed is very small and is difficult to sow on its own, so is best sown blended with an inert carrier such as vermiculite. Seed should be surface sown and not buried deeply and rubbed or rolled into the surface.