

BEWARE: New Invasive Grass in Lincoln County!! (Ventenata dubia)

Ventenata dubia (North African wiregrass) is an invasive annual grasses with extremely aggressive characteristics. Ventenata has high silica content, leading to low palatability for livestock or big game species. Ventenata is a warm season annual grass that matures early, and absorbs water and nutrients before desirable native plants and agricultural grass are actively growing.

Ventenata was recently added to the Montana Noxious Weed List and has been located in Lincoln County.

“MSU Extension Specialist stated that Ventenata is increasing at a faster rate than any invasive plant she has seen in Montana the last 20 years.”



Ventenata Site in Lincoln County

What Happens Next?

Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR): To eliminate this species or reduce its impacts, we must find and manage populations quickly.

Play Clean Go: To prevent accidental spread of seeds: clean boots, clothing, animals, vehicles and equipment before entering or exiting an area.

Reporting: Report Ventenata through EDDMapS if you are a Lincoln County Ventenata Management Partner or to a contact listed on the right.

Knowing where we have populations of Ventenata allows managers to start controlling the invasion and reducing additional spread.

Your help in reporting these species is critical.

- **EDDMapS** is a multiregional resource for reporting, tracking, mapping, identifying and managing weed species. Locations of weed species can be reported online (www.eddmaps.org) or through a smartphone app (free download). A photo and GPS location or knowledge of the exact location of occurrence (if not using the app) is required.

Management: Late fall or early spring applied herbicides can be an effective management tool. A pre-emergent herbicide that controls seed germination may be the best option for large infested areas; infested fields or areas that are not accessible in the early spring or late fall. In areas with very small patches, plants can be hand-pulled and removed prior to seed production to prevent seed deposition. Hand pulling and fall and spring herbicide application will take consistency for several years.

Impacts

Ventenata can negatively impact forest, pasture and rangelands. It is capable of excluding desirable native species, and reducing livestock and big game forage by up to 70%. Similar to cheatgrass, Ventenata can increase wildfire frequency and intensity. Awns and seeds attach readily to clothing, animals and equipment. Some researchers and managers consider Ventenata to be worse than cheatgrass and have observed this species replacing cheatgrass.

Contacts

Report sightings through EDDMapS or to one of the following:

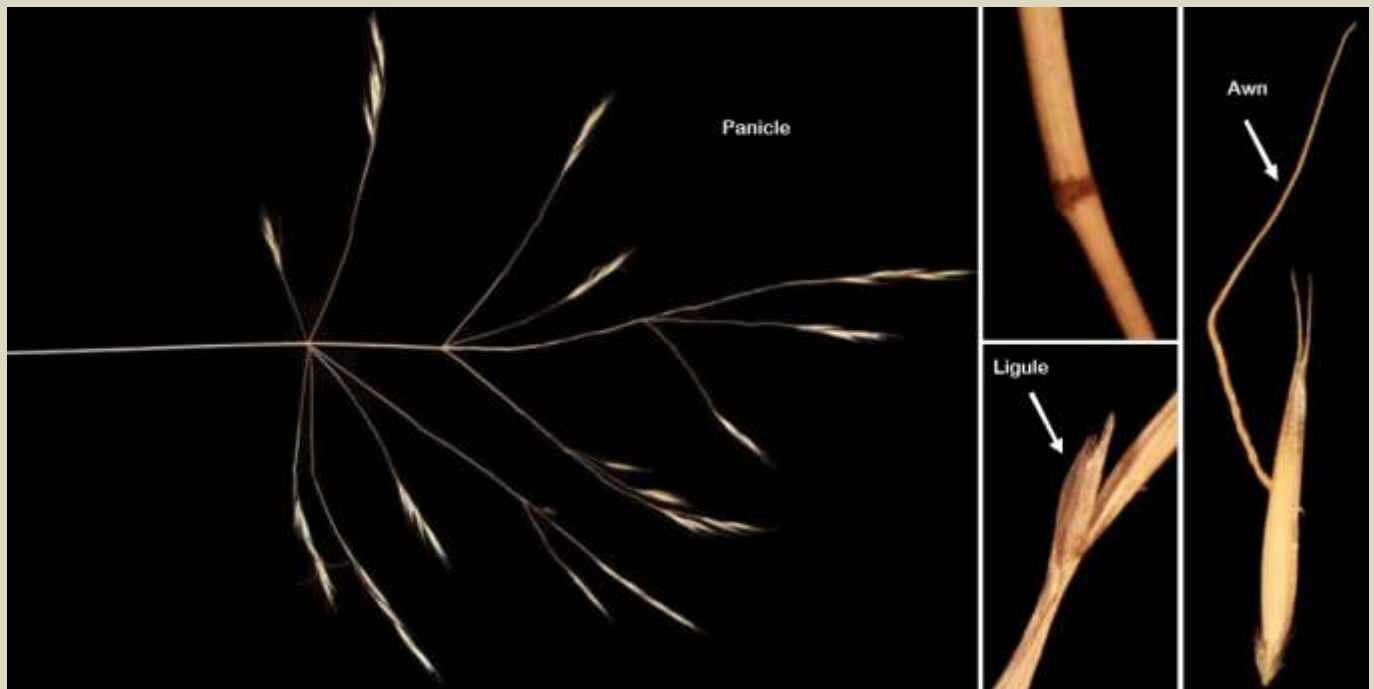
Lincoln County Weed District:

Mike Bradeen.
mbradeen@libby.org
406-283-1236

Kootenai National Forest:

Jessica Ressel:
Jessica.ressel@usda.gov
406-296-2536

VENTENATA (*Ventenata dubia*)



Height: 6-27 in. **Leaves:** $\frac{3}{4}$ – $2\frac{3}{8}$ in x 1-3 mm; narrow, rolled lengthwise or folded; open sheaths **Hairs:** Microscopic hairs give a shiny appearance **Node:** Dark red or black **Ligule:** Membranous, long, cut into narrow segments **Inflorescence:** Lax, open pyramidal panicle, 8 in long; turns to light yellow with a distinct sheen **Seedhead/ spikelet:** $\frac{7}{16}$ - $\frac{5}{8}$ in long 2-3 florets/spikelet 15-35 seeds per plant **Awns:** Lower awns straight, $\frac{3}{16}$ ”; upper awns $\frac{3}{8}$ – 1 in, bent and twisted, hairy at base (callus)

*Lincoln County will be offering informational opportunities this Spring (2021).
Please contact: Mike Bradeen-County Weed Supervisor
or Jessica Ressel-Kootenai National Forest to get on a mailing list!*