

Cenchrus ciliaris

Buffelgrass

Cenchrus ciliaris L.

Family: Poaceae

Description: Perennial bunchgrass, up to 5 ft tall. Sheaths keeled, sparsely haired. Ligules are fringed membranes. Leaves 10 inches long by 0.5 inches wide, smooth or slightly hairy, tail-like appendage on tip. Inflorescence a dense, cylindrical panicle, gray, purple, or pale yellow, 6 inches long by 1 inch wide, bearing bristly burs. *Cenchrus* from the Greek *kenchros*, the name of a millet; *ciliaris*, hairy, for the inflorescence^(5, 70).

Distribution: Native to Africa and tropical Asia. Naturalized worldwide. Occurs in Hawai‘i in dry areas on all islands except Ni‘ihau. First collected on Hawai‘i in 1932⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Excludes natives in disturbed areas. A fire hazard.



Management: A valued forage in drier pastures. Sensitive to glyphosate. Preemergence and postemergence control by drizzle application of hexazinone effective.