

Brachiaria mutica

Paragrass, californiagrass, panicumgrass, buffalograss

Brachiaria mutica (Forssk.) Stapf.

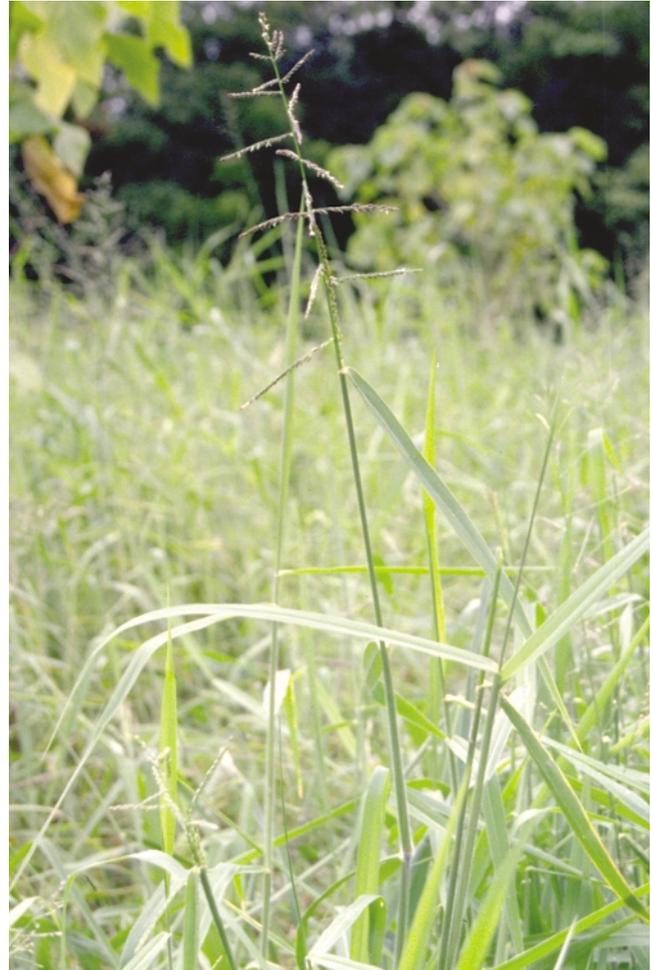
Family: Poaceae

Description: Sprawling grass with rooting runners to 18 ft long, reaches upward to 5 ft tall, hairy. Stems branched, smooth, with hollow internodes. Sheath longer than internodes, more or less hairy, ligule membranous. Leaves to 10 inches long by 0.6 inches wide. Inflorescences open, branched, terminal panicle. *Brachiaria*, branched at right angles or in opposite directions, for the branched stems; *mutica*, blunt or without a point^(5, 69, 70), meaning unclear.

Distribution: A desirable forage in high-rainfall and marshy lands; origin unknown, distributed throughout the tropics. Occurs in wet areas and extends into open water, including brackish ponds, on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Lana'i, Maui, and Hawai'i. First collected on O'ahu in 1924⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Interferes with stream flow and poses a nuisance to marine navigation when rafts of the grass float out to sea. Forms monotypic stands in forest openings and marshes, displacing native plants and destroying bird habitats.

Management: A weed in wet open forests and aquatic environments. Drizzle applications of glyphosate at 1 lb/acre with a good surfactant cleared Wailoa Pond in Hilo (Robert Nishimoto, Div. of Aquatic Resources,



Hawai'i Dept. of Land and Natural Resources) and Hanamā'ulu Stream on Kaua'i. A solution of 1–1.5% glyphosate product in water sprayed to wet the foliage provided control on Maui (Hank Oppenheimer, Maui Pine)