

Melinis minutiflora

Molassesgrass

Melinis minutiflora P. Beauv.

Family: Poaceae

Description: Sprawling perennial to 3.5 ft tall. Noticeable sweet odor. Leaves dull green, sticky, hairy, 10 inches long, 0.4 inches wide, ligule a row of hairs to 0.4 inches long. Inflorescence blooms in winter, initially dense, purple panicle, opens as it matures. *Meline*, millet; *minutiflora*, small flowers^(5, 70).

Distribution: Native to Africa. Widely distributed throughout tropics as a fodder. On all main islands except Ni'ihau in dry to moist areas. First collected on Lana'i in 1914⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: A serious pest in drier environments because of sprawling growth and fire hazard in dry seasons. Repels mosquitoes, according to folklore in Peru.

Management: Sensitive to glyphosate. HAVO staff reported control with foliar application of glyphosate at 1% product in water (Chris Zimmer, HAVO).

