

Oplismenus hirtellus

Basketgrass

Oplismenus hirtellus (L.) P. Beauv.

Family: Poaceae

Description: Creeping perennial, thin stems, much branched, decumbent except flowering stems upright and unbranched, 16 inches long, hairy or not, nodes usually dense with short hairs. Leaves thin, narrow, pointed, 4 inches long by 0.7 inches wide, upper and sometimes lower surface with few stiff hairs. Sheaths smooth or with hairs pressed flat, margins and collar hairy; ligule membranous, 0.3 inches long. Blooms briefly in October–November. Floral spikes (racemes) spaced along 2 sides of flower stem, spikelets with long purple awns. Greek *hoplismenos*, armed, referring to the awns; *hirtellus*, somewhat hairy^(5, 59, 70).

Distribution: Common pantropical weed. First collected in Hawai‘i in 1819, occurs in shaded mesic valleys and forests between sea level to 2800 ft elevation on all islands except Ni‘ihau and Kaho‘olawe⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Displaces natives on forest floors and trailsides.

Management: Probably sensitive to glyphosate.

