

# Setaria palmifolia

## Palmgrass

*Setaria palmifolia* (J. König) Stapf.

Family: Poaceae

**Description:** Erect perennial to 6 ft tall. Leaf blades 3.5 inches wide by 20 inches long, with prominent parallel veins giving the appearance of a palm leaf. Inflorescence green, an open, branched panicle to 2 ft long with a rough stem. Latin *seta*, bristle, for the bristles on the inflorescence: *palmifolia*, palm leaves<sup>(5, 70)</sup>.

**Distribution:** Native to tropical Asia. In Hawai‘i, found in mesic to wet pastures, forests, and waste lands on Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Lana‘i, Maui, and Hawai‘i. First collected on Hawai‘i in 1903<sup>(70)</sup>.

**Environmental impact:** Displaces forages in pastures and natives in disturbed areas in mesic to wet forests. Stiff hairs at nodes make it irritating to handle.

**Management:** DOFAW foresters on Kaua‘i controlled palmgrass with drizzle applications of glyphosate at 0.75 lb/acre. However, reinvasion required constant monitoring and re-treatment until the seed reservoir was exhausted. HAVO staff reported control with foliar application of glyphosate at 1% of product. (Chris Zimmer, HAVO).

