

TUMBLE WINDMILL GRASS

Chloris verticillata Nutt.

Plant Symbol = CHVE2

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data
Center



From Britton & Brown (1913)
@ plants.usda.gov

Alternate Name

Tumble finger grass, windmill grass, tumble
windmillgrass.

Uses

All livestock graze tumble windmill grass in spring
and early summer.

Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State
Department of Natural Resources for this plant's
current status, such as, state noxious status and
wetland indicator values.

Description

Grass Family (Poaceae). Tumble windmill grass is a
native, warm-season, perennial bunch grass. The
height ranges from 4 to 12 inches. The leaf blade is
crowded at the base, 3 to 7 inches long, tightly
folded, abruptly pointed, and light green. The leaf
sheath is shorter than the internodes, compressed, and
flattened. The stem is erect or decumbent and
sometimes roots at the lower nodes. The seedhead
has 7 to 10 slender spikes, 2 to 6 inches long,
arranged in 1 to 3 whorls, finally widely spreading,
and each spikelet is tipped with a short awn.

Distribution: For current distribution, please consult
the Plant Profile page for this species on the
PLANTS Web site.

Management

If grazed during dormancy, supplement with protein
and mineral concentrates. Its quality is moderately
high, but production is low. It is not a choice forage
plant, but is important as an indicator of fair to poor
range condition. This grass is seldom, if ever, a key
management species. When it is, it responds to
proper grazing use and deferred grazing periods of 50
to 60 days.

Establishment

Growth starts in spring and it becomes dormant in the
fall. It may produce two seed crops during the
growing season, the first from May to July and then
the second in September. The seedheads break off at
maturity and tumble in the wind. It is adapted to a
wide range of soils, though it is best adapted to acid
to neutral medium- and coarse-textured soils.

Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

Please contact your local NRCS Field Office.

Reference

Leithead, H.L., L.L. Yarlett, & T.N. Shiflett. 1976.
100 native forage grasses in 11 southern states.
USDA SCS *Agriculture Handbook No. 389*,
Washington, DC.

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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