

**Ehrharta villosa*

Schult. f.

PYP GRASS

Flowering period: October–November.

Description: Perennial grass with culms (stems) up to 1m tall with the capacity to root along the node if buried. Rhizomes can extend for 20 cm or more each year and ramify below ground to such an extent that the plant can rapidly cover large areas. Leaves linear, lower leaves deciduous, upper leaves 4–7 cm long, 1–4 mm wide, flat or rolled (when desiccated). Inflorescence up to 20 cm longer or longer with pendulous spikelets.

Distribution: From Guilderton, City Beach to Margaret River (introduced to stabilise estuarine dunes). A native to coastal regions of South Africa. Forms highly invasive stands that rapidly expand through sandy dunes.

Control methods: This highly aggressive weed cannot be readily controlled by manual means as broken fragments will resprout and re-establish the plant. Control with grass-selective herbicides or careful application of non-selective herbicides (with penetrant).

Notes: Introduced to stabilise coastal sands, pyp grass will rapidly and completely take over dune vegetation in exposed situations. The highly invasive nature and broad ecological tolerances (from foredunes to secondary dunes) makes this species a significant new threat to many coastal areas. In the Jurien Bay area a dedicated control program has enabled the complete eradication of pyp grass.



Leaf



Habit



Flowers



Roots



Distribution