

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

Perennial Veldt Grass, also called Purple Veldt Grass, is a slender perennial bunch grass, native to southern Africa. Highly variable, often but not always rhizomatous. It's usually 1 to 2 ft. tall but is known to grow much taller.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

It is an Emergent Invasive in Orange County

PERENNIAL VELDT **GRASS**

Ehrharta calycina

Known OC Sites & Status Updates

Distribution map & info:

- · calflora.org/cqi-bin/species query.cqi? where-calrecnum=2894
- cal-ipc.org/ip/management/ plant profiles/Ehrharta calycina.php

Can be confused with: Panic Veldt Grass, Ehrharta erecta, which is much more widespread.

Perennial Veldtgrass requires sandy well drained soils & some moisture. When it grows in those conditions, the grass will set copious amounts of seed & readily expand its population into empty areas. It resprouts after fires & its presence may encourage increased fire frequency.



The leaves are often tinged a reddish purple at the point where they meet the stem. The leaves are flat and wrinkled partway along one of the margins. The leaf blades are 3"-8" long, and up to.1/3" wide.





PERENNIAL VELDT GRASS, P. 2



Flowering is from March to May. The inflorescence is a narrow to wide open array of spikelets, light in color when new and becoming darker and tinted purple to reddish with age; 3 florets per spikelet.

Mature glumes purplish; hairs on sterile lemma Wrinkles on outer lemma; hairless sterile lemma

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Ehrharta calycina



Ehrharta erecta

IF YOU SEE THIS PLANT AT A SITE THAT'S NOT ON THE LIST:

- Record the plant's location as exactly as you can (GPS coordinates if possible), the date you saw it, and an estimate of how many there were. Include the site's landowner or manager, if known.
- Take identifying photos: the whole plant & its surroundings, closeups of leaves, flowers & fruits/ pods.
- If you take a sample, place it immediately into a sealed bag.
- · To avoid spreading the plant, check your clothing and shoes thoroughly before leaving the area, and remove and bag all traces of seeds.
- Report the find immediately

invasives@occnps.org.