



Weeping Lovegrass

Eragrostis curvula (Schrad.) Nees

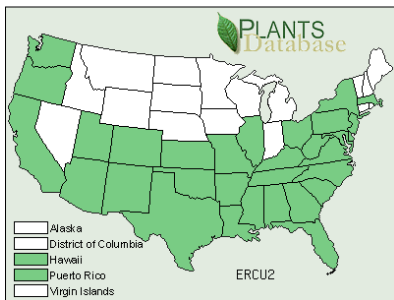
Common Name: African lovegrass, weeping lovegrass

Native Origin: South Africa

Description: A perennial in the grass family (Poaceae) which grows in clumps to a height of 2 to 6 feet. The stems are erect, stiff, and slender with dark green, very narrow, arching foliage, 1/16 to 1/8 inch wide. Leaf blades are rolled or flat and bristle-like. The inflorescence is an open panicle, lavender-gray color, arching, and 8 to 10 inches long. Flowers appear in mid to late summer. It reproduces by seed. The seed-stalks produce approximately 300 to 1,000 seeds per head. The large fibrous root system does not have rhizomes or stolons.



Habitat: This clump forming grass grows well in hot, dry locations in full sun and in most well drained soils. It thrives in sandy soils but tolerates clay soils. It is found in disturbed soils along roadside embankments, railway tracks, riverbanks and waste places, where it tends to invade adjacent degraded pastures. It is uncommon in forest habitats.



Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is considered invasive in AZ, MD, NC, NJ, TN, TX, UT, and VA.

Ecological Impacts: Because of its drought tolerance and the ease with which seed-based propagation occurs, weeping lovegrass has become a pest throughout the United States. It is known to crowd out other native grasses because of its aggressive nature and its characteristic rapid early growth that forms an early ground cover that chokes out other plants.

Control and Management:



- **Manual-** Dig out the root system in late winter or early spring; follow up with prescribed burning to kill remaining seeds
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate. Follow label and state requirements.
- **Natural Enemies-** Grasshoppers, leafhoppers, and other forage-eating insects, even in light populations, are very destructive to weeping lovegrass seedlings. Rabbits and rodents are sometimes damaging.

References: <http://plants.usda.gov>, www.nps.gov/plants/alien/map/eucy1.htm, www.forestimages.org, www.dcr.state.va.us/dnh/fsercr.pdf, <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/eragcurv.html>, www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/ornamental_grass/eragrostis_curvula.html, www.hear.org/gcw/html/autogend/species/7389.HTM, www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/graminoid/eracur/all.html