

## 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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