

# PUCCINELLIA

## *Puccinellia ciliata*

G12  
GRASS



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**Family:** Poaceae.

G12

**Description:** Tufted erect perennial to about 50 cm tall. Leaves pale green, inrolled or folded with a large ligule at the base (see photo). Flowerhead an erect open panicle with numerous several-flowered spikelets. Flowers mostly in spring.

**Key features:** Open panicle (flowerhead) which is similar to *Puccinellia stricta* var. *perlaxa* which also has an open panicle (see photo). Large membranous ligule. Although a perennial species it behaves like an annual in areas with a summer drought.

**Value:** Highest grazing value in winter and spring whilst green and before flowering. Nutritive value declines as the plant flowers, matures and senesces and further declines through summer and autumn even though still palatable. Changes from a high quality, highly digestible feed capable of supporting high animal liveweight gains in spring to less than a maintenance ration in late summer/autumn.

**Salinity and waterlogging tolerance:** High tolerance to saline and waterlogged soils.

**Notes:** Native of Turkey. Sold as the cultivar 'Menemen' and naturalised in NSW, South Australia and Western Australia. A useful species for reclaiming salt-affected land and also has been widely accepted for its grazing value. Grows on salt affected soils too waterlogged for saltbushes. Established by seeding into cultivated land. Responds well to nitrogenous fertiliser.

**References:** *Flora of South Australia*, Jessop and Toelken (eds), Part 4, 4<sup>th</sup> edition 1986. *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 4, 1993. *Saltland Pastures in Australia*, Barrett-Lennard, WA Government, 2003. *Forage Shrubs and Grasses for Revegetating Saltland*, Runciman and Malcolm, WA Department of Agriculture Bulletin 4153, 1991.

