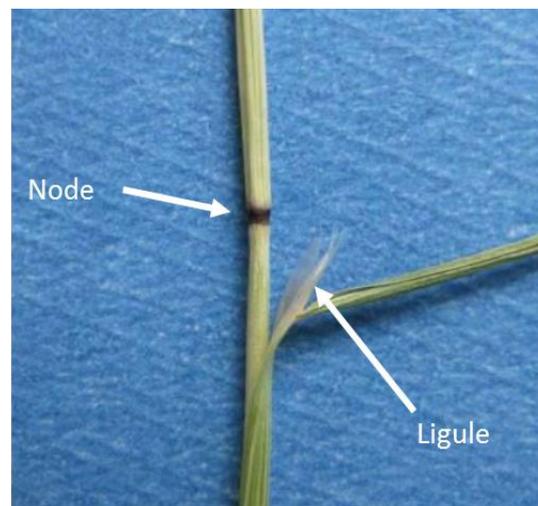




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VENTENATA MANAGEMENT TIPS

Ventenata, a member of the Grass family, is a winter annual that germinates in the fall and overwinters as a seedling. It is vibrant green in May and June but turns tan or tawny colored in July and August after seeds set. Ventenata has several key identifying features. Nodes on the stem are red to black and seedling leaves are folded. The ligule (see photo) of ventenata is large and membranous. Limited research suggests that seed longevity is about two years.



Ventenata is highly invasive and can replace perennial grasses and forbs in pasture, rangelands, along roadsides and in other environments. Ventenata has no forage value for wildlife and livestock due to its high silica content. The high silica content also promotes the buildup of thatch which inhibits growth of other plants. Roots of ventenata are shallow, which increases the potential for soil erosion in areas where ventenata is established.

Management efforts of established infestations should focus on methods that reduce or eliminate seed production. A significant reduction in ventenata infestations should be observed after three to five years of aggressive control activities. It is critical that monitoring for new infestations is done annually to ensure that seeds were not introduced from other areas.

Ventenata is a very serious threat to hay crops, range, pasture land and native plant communities. Prevention is the number one management strategy for ventenata. If you think you have found this plant, please contact your local county Weed District.

Effective control measures for the management of ventenata include:

- 1. Mechanical (hand pulling & mowing):** Diligent hand pulling can provide control of very small infestations of ventenata. Mowing should be done before the plant produces seed heads. Mowing multiple times during the season before seed heads are present can reduce seed production. Mowing after seed heads are present is ineffective since the plant will only bend out of the way or tangle in the mower or swather. If mowing is used, be sure to clean the equipment before leaving the site to prevent further seed spread.
- 2. Herbicide: Always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Calibrate your equipment to ensure that you are adding the proper amount of herbicide to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control ventenata. **Do NOT use these herbicides in lawns, turf or ornamental settings – read the label.** *Timing of herbicide application is very important – see specific herbicides below for timing recommendations.*

Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Esplanade 200 SC: | 2/3 – 1 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water (apply in late summer/fall; pre-emergent). Not for use on grazed areas. |
| Rejuvra: | 2/3 – 1 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water (apply in late summer/fall; pre-emergent). Can be used on grazed areas. |
| Plateau: | 3/4 – 2 teaspoons herbicide to 1 gallon of water (apply in the fall). |
| Glyphosate: | 2 - 3 teaspoons herbicide to 1 gallon of water (apply in early spring when desirable grasses are still dormant). Glyphosate will kill grasses as well as forbs. |

Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Esplanade 200 SC: | 3.5 – 5 oz herbicide per acre (apply in late summer/fall; pre-emergent). Not for use on grazed areas. |
| Rejuvra: | 3.5 – 5 oz herbicide per acre (apply in late summer/fall; pre-emergent). Can be used on grazed areas. |
| Plateau: | 4 - 12 oz herbicide per acre (apply in the fall). |
| Glyphosate: | 12 - 16 oz herbicide per acre (apply in early spring when desirable grasses are still dormant). Glyphosate will kill grasses as well as forbs. |

NOTE: Adding a surfactant to your tank mix may enhance the performance of your herbicide and is required for certain herbicides (read the label). Add 0.5 - 1 oz per gallon of water for backpack sprayers or 1 – 2 pints per 100 gallons for large sprayers.

- 3. Cultural (competition & revegetation):** Overgrazed pastures are very susceptible to ventenata invasion, so it is important to maintain healthy desirable plant communities. Revegetation of infested stands in combination with prescribed grazing, mowing and herbicide control is imperative.
- 4. Integrated management:** Currently a combination of mowing (before the seed heads form) and maintaining healthy desirable plant communities is the best approach to controlling ventenata.

Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply discrimination or endorsement by the Gallatin County Weed District.