

# King Blue Grass



A Pocket Field Guide



# King Blue Grass

*(Dichanthium queenslandicum)*



Inflorescence

## What it *looks like*

**Grass stalks:**  
Smooth, upright  
stems usually  
growing singly  
from the base.

Up to  
**80** cm  
tall

**Grass blades:**  
Narrow, flat  
leaves typical of  
bluegrass species.



# Why it *Matters*

King Blue Grass is a native pasture grass that once grew widely across the bluegrass downs of central Queensland.

It provides good forage for livestock and supports healthy native grasslands. Much of its habitat has been lost to cropping, mining and development, so remaining plants are important for biodiversity and maintaining native pasture systems.



Seed

**Seed heads:** Small straw-coloured to pale purple seed heads held at the top of the stems.

# Species Profile



**GRASS FAMILY**

Poaceae



**HABITAT**

Native bluegrass downs and open grasslands on heavy clay soils.



**STATUS**

Native, endangered nationally and Vulnerable in Queensland.



**DISTRIBUTION IN CQ**

Scattered populations from Nebo to Monto and west to Clermont and Rolleston.

# Queensland Bluegrass

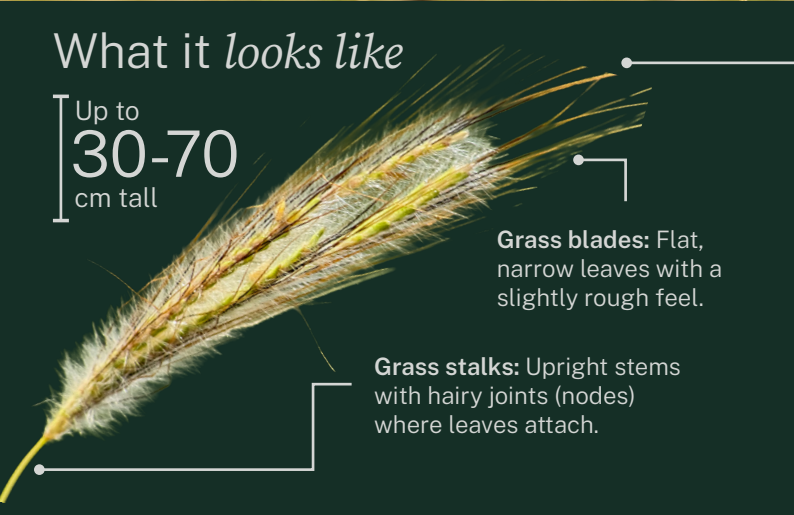
(*Dichanthium sericeum*)



Inflorescence

## What it looks like

Up to  
**30-70**  
cm tall



**Grass blades:** Flat, narrow leaves with a slightly rough feel.

**Grass stalks:** Upright stems with hairy joints (nodes) where leaves attach.

# Species *Profile*



## GRASS FAMILY

Poaceae



## HABITAT

Open grasslands and lightly timbered country, often on clay soils in bluegrass downs.



## STATUS

Native pasture grass.

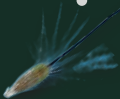


## DISTRIBUTION IN CQ

Common across the bluegrass downs and much of inland Queensland.

**Seed heads:** Clusters of silky, hairy seed heads on short branches at the top of the stem.

Seed



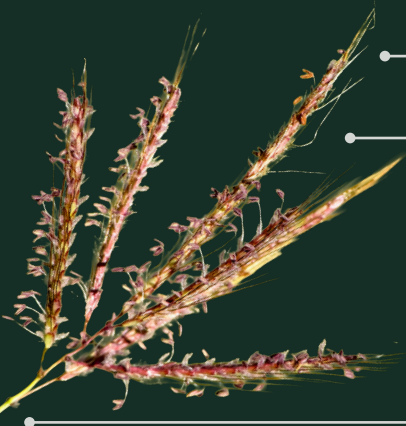
# Sheda Grass

(*Dichanthium annulatum*)



Inflorescence

## What it looks like



**Seed heads:** Branched seed heads with small purple-green spikelets and long bristle-like awns (seed tails).

**Grass blades:** Long narrow leaves up to about 30 cm, often rough or hairy.

**Grass stalks:** Stems spread along the ground then turn upright at the tips; joints often have rings of hairs.

# Species *Profile*



**GRASS FAMILY**  
Poaceae



## HABITAT

Grows in tropical and subtropical pastures, roadsides and disturbed areas; tolerates clay, sandy or slightly salty soils.



## STATUS

Introduced pasture grass (naturalised).



## DISTRIBUTION IN CQ

Occurs in parts of northern and central Queensland, often in improved or disturbed pastures.

Usually  
**25-100**  
cm tall



Seed

# Quick Comparisons

## King Blue Grass



## Queensland Bluegrass



## Sheda Grass



## Found King Blue Grass in *your paddock?*

Contact FBA. We provide tailored advice and on-ground support to help you achieve your management goals.

**Contact Us**  
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Australian Government



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