



Montana State University

# VENTENATA

*Ventenata dubia*

## Identification/Origin

Ventenata originates from southern Europe, western Asia, and northern Africa. North Africa grass or wiregrass are other names for ventenata. Ventenata is a winter annual bunchgrass that has open, airy, pyramid-shaped panicle with flower and seed-bearing stems coming off the main stem at almost 90-degree angles, it has a silvery sheen due to microscopic hairs along the plant. This grass has reddish-black nodes, and the awns are bent on upper florets, making it distinguishable from similar species such as cheatgrass.

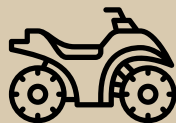
## Level of Infestation in Montana

Ventenata was first found in North America in the early 1950s in Washington and Idaho. Ventenata was first documented in Montana in the mid-1990s when it was only sporadically found in distributed areas. In the 2010s it began to rapidly increase and is present on range and pasture lands and rights-of-way from northwestern to southeastern Montana.

## Pathways



Hiking, biking, & other trail use



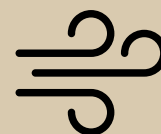
Vehicles and Equipment



Cars, trucks, trailers, highway vehicles



Livestock or contaminated feed



Passive spread (wind/water)



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## Reporting

To report suspected Ventenata plant, contact your local Extension agent or county weed coordinator or the Montana Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed EDRR program at [MTEDRR@mt.gov](mailto:MTEDRR@mt.gov)

## Impacts

Invasive grasses such as ventenata may degrade plant communities and reduce suitable habitat for livestock and wildlife.

## Regional Ramifications

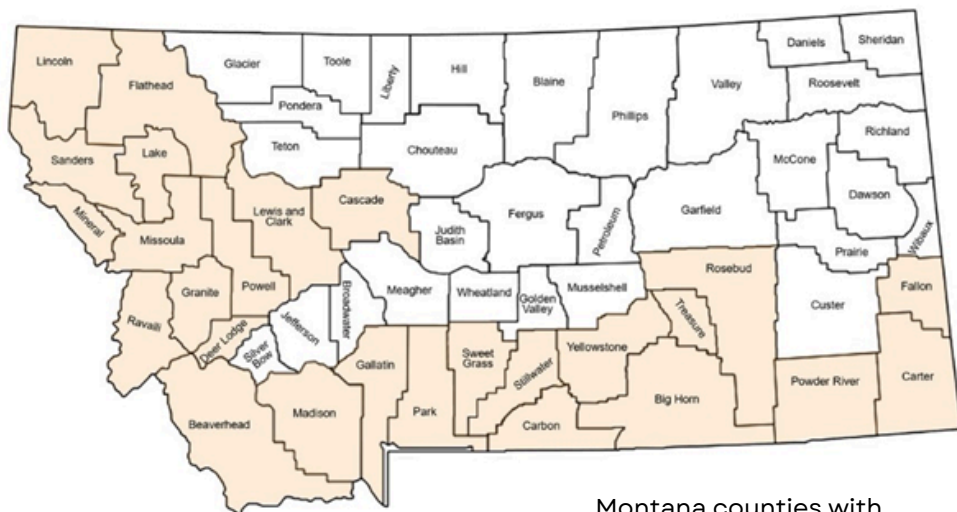
Ventenata infestations lead to reduced rangeland productivity. It is not palatable to cattle, other livestock, and wildlife and this is of particular concern in Montana. In Idaho an estimated reduction of 50% forage yield and crop quality occurred a few years after initial infestations.

## More Information

More information about ventenata can be found on the Montana State University Extension website or on the Montana Department of Agriculture website at [agr.mt.gov/Noxious-Weeds](http://agr.mt.gov/Noxious-Weeds).



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Montana counties with established populations of ventenata, MSU Extension 2024.