Chloris truncata
Windmill grass

Inflorescence
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Plant features

Growth form  Perennial, C4, erect, tufted, grass sometimes with short stolons (creeping stems that give rise to new plants). 100-450mm high.

Leaves  The leaf sheaths have a smooth surface and are loosely wrapped around the stem. The leaf blades are 30-170mm long and 1.5-3mm wide.

Flowers  The inflorescence is purple and occurs on the top of bare stems held above the plant. It is similar to a windmill with 5-13 spikes radiating out. Flowers usually between Mar-Jul but will flower outside of this time under favourable conditions.

Fruits  The seed head is also in a windmill shape. The grains, which are 1.5-2.2mm long are held in black husks that have long bristles at the apex. The spikelets are in two rows down each radial spike.

Distribution

Found throughout the Avon catchment as well as from Geraldton to Albany and east of Esperance and into the Goldfields. Also found in all mainland states.

Zone, habitat

Grows in a range of soils across the landscape including floodfringes and the drier end of floodways including saline areas.

Revegetation information and other points

There is some debate over whether native to WA. If used for revegetating floodfringes and drier floodways its network of roots and close ground cover will help stabilise the soil. Does not tolerate waterlogging but it is slightly salt tolerant. Plants can be grown from tubestock or direct seeded. Seed needs to be threshed from the awn for ease of handling and can also be pelletised for easier handling.