

## **Invasive Species Factsheet-Ventenata**

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**Species Common Name:** Ventenata, North Africa Wiregrass

**Species Scientific Name:** *Ventenata dubia*

**Native Range and Introduction:** This species is native to North Africa and Southern Europe, and was first documented in the United States in the 1950's in Idaho. It was likely introduced as a contaminate of seed. It was first documented in Wyoming in the late 1990's in Sheridan County at a military training facility, likely brought in from military equipment. It is still spread by contaminated seed, but locally is moved by animals and vehicles.

**Description:** This is a winter annual grass species that grows up to about 18 inches tall. The entire plant is covered in tiny hairs, which gives the plant a shiny appearance. The plant has a band at the node that is dark red to black. The ligule is long and membranous. The inflorescence is an open panicle in a pyramid shape. The plant's seed head awns are bent and twisted much like those of wild oat. This plant is high in silica content making it a very low quality forage. This species is known to outcompete Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*).

**Ecological and Economic Impacts:** Ecologically this plant can establish and dominate an area quickly making the area lose biodiversity of not just the plant community, but also the insect and animal communities. Also, the species is very shallow rooted and can lead to an increase in soil erosion. This plant causes reduction in yields and stand life of hayfields and grazing capacity of rangelands and pastures. It causes a negative \$22 million effect on the US economy.

**Regulated Status in Wyoming:** Ventenata is on Sheridan County Declared Noxious Species List.

**Distribution in Wyoming:** Ventenata is currently found in two counties in Wyoming, Sheridan (1997) and Campbell (2016).

### **Control Options:**

**Mechanical:** Control is feasible if continued throughout the growing season for multiple years. Hand pulling small infestation or multiple mowing or discing may be effective options.

**Chemical:** In a rangeland situation, Plateau (Imazapic) could be applied in the fall, otherwise a grass herbicide could be used in a ROW or Industrial situation.

**Cultural:** Healthy stands of perennial grass, will help prevent infestations from becoming established.

**Biological:** The plant can be grazed, but it is a short window in the spring.

**Integrated Weed Management:** This would likely combine a fall herbicide application with multiple mechanical clean up applications the following year. Could reseed the area the following fall to increase competition.

### **Online Resources:**

URL: <http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/117772/aqb>

URL: <http://extension.wsu.edu/whitman/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2013/10/VentenataEB2040Epdf.pdf>

URL: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ventenata\\_dubia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ventenata_dubia)

Image 1 URL: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/plant\\_diversity/3735553444?ytcheck=1](https://www.flickr.com/photos/plant_diversity/3735553444?ytcheck=1)

Image 2 URL: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/plant\\_diversity/3735555040/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/plant_diversity/3735555040/)



Image 1-Mature Plant



Image 2-Seedhead and Awns

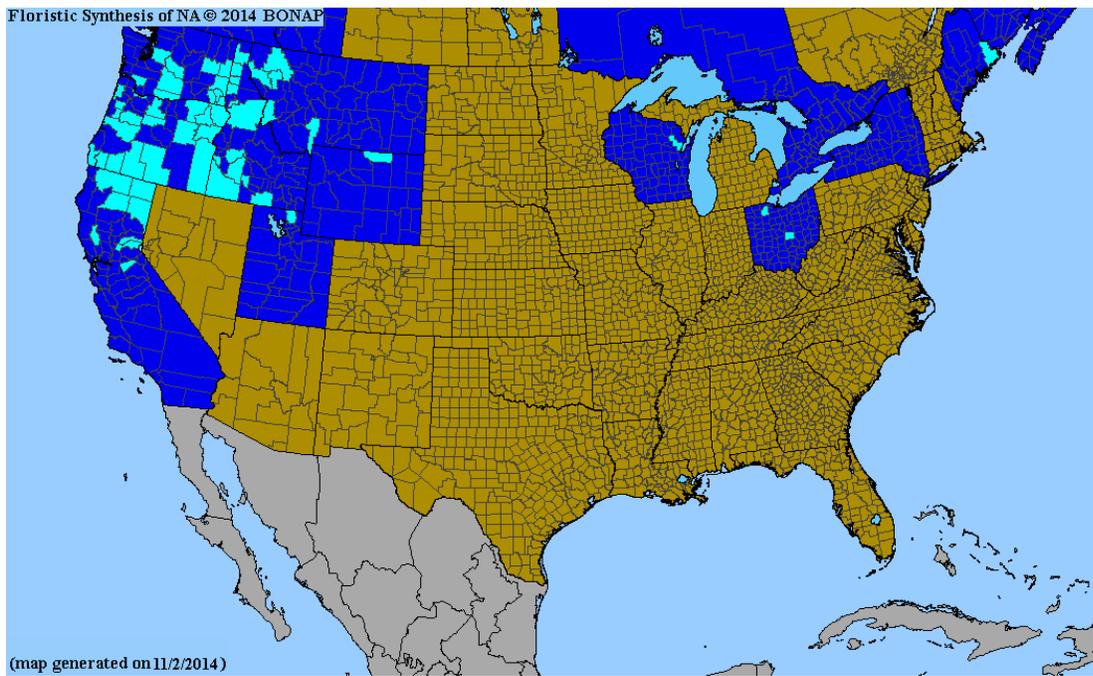


Figure 1-Ventenata distribution in the United States (light blue)  
URL: <http://bonap.net/NAPA/TaxonMaps/Genus/County/Ventenata>