PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Dactyloctenium giganteum* Fisher & Schweick.

**GENUS** *Dactyloctenium* **FAMILY** Poaceae

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Seeds, Grain, Cereal

The seeds are lightly roasted, ground and made into porridge.
They are also cooked with other vegetables.

## DESCRIPTION

A grass. It can form tufts and lie along the ground. It has runners. It grows 1.6 m high. The flower has 5 stalks spreading out like spokes on a wheel and these dry out and twist.

## HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in hot arid places. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall above 450 mm. It grows in alluvial sandy soils. It is rare in Swaziland. In Kenya it grows between 200-2,000 m altitude and between 10-1,100 m in Southern Africa. It can grow in shade. It can grow in arid places.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

Seeds are collected during the dry season.

## NOTES

It is a C4 plant.

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