PLANT FACT SHEET

Cenchrus ciliaris (Fig. & DeNot.) L.

GENUS *Cenchrus* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Black Buffel Grass

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Cereal

The seeds are eaten raw.
They are also mixed with millet (bajra) for bread making.

DESCRIPTION

A wiry tussocky grass. It keeps growing from year to year. It can have stolons or runners. It grows 0.2-1.5 m high. The leaves are 18 cm long. The flowers are purple. The seed head has a fluffy appearance due to long bristles.

HABITAT

It grows on alluvial flats. It suits Mediterranean regions. It also grows in tropical and temperate regions. In Bahrain it grows in compact gravelly soils in desert areas. It can grow in dry areas. It can grow in arid places. It is highly salt tolerant.

NOTES

There are about 23 Cenchrus species.

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