**Melinis repens**

**NATAL GRASS**

*Poaceae*

Common Synonyms: *Rhynchelytrum repens*

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**Florida Introduction Date:** 1875

**Control Methods:** Mechanical: Uprooting of entire plants. Mowing and burning will not provide control.

Chemical: Spot treatments of Glyphosate at 1-2% solution with surfactant will provide good control. Apply prior to flowering and seed set. Imazapyr will provide good control but is non-selective and will persist for several months in the soil. Preliminary research suggests imazapic may provide good control. [IFAS].

**Useful Resources:**


**Comments:** Newly establishing in the north, widely established in central and south.

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**FLEPPC Category:** 1

**FDACS Listed Noxious Weed:** No

**IFAS Assessment**

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<th>North</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>South</th>
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<td></td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>CAUTION</td>
<td>INVASIVE</td>
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**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 10a-11

**Growth Habit:** Perennial Grass

**Origin:** Africa

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**Description:** Short-lived, perennial grass with glabrous, erect, slender stems to 1 m tall, forming loose, open tufts. Leaves and stems pale green, often with purple blotches, and sometimes rooting from the lower nodes; nodes conspicuously pubescent. Leaf sheaths glabrous or sometimes with long, stiff hairs; leaf blades flat or folded, linear, to 30 cm long and 1 cm wide, often glaucous, upper surface slightly rough. Inflorescence a loose, open, terminal panicle, to 20 cm long and 7 cm wide, purple to pinkish, fading to silvery with age, with slender, ascending branches. Spikelets on thin, flexuous stalks, covered with long, soft, wavy hairs, ovate, to 8 mm long, glumes with short awns.

**Habitat:** Beach dune, coastal strands, mesic and scrubby flatwoods, pine rocklands, sandhill, scrub, shell mounds, swamps, disturbed uplands, and hardwood hammock.