



*Cymbopogon refractus* – family: POACEAE

## BARBED WIRE GRASS

Perennial clumped grass to about 1.5m  
Red-brown flower spikelets February to April

**Cultivation:** Hardy and undemanding on poor soils in full sun or light shade.

This perennial grass is found growing on sandy and stony soils from Vic. to Qld and the NT. It is often seen on the edges of disturbed areas. Similar to *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass) but growing a little taller it also has attractive bluish-green narrow leaves and red-brown flower spikelets. The flowering stem is reddish-green and the spikelets are turned back like the ties on barbwire fencing, hence its common name. The long leaf stalks are faintly lemon-scented when crushed.



Excellent for mixed plantings in a drought tolerant, low maintenance garden this grass will also provide a habitat for small, ground-dwelling mammals and frogs. The seed is eaten by the Pale-headed Rosella.