

Themeda villosa

Lyonsgrass

Themeda villosa (Poir.) A. Camus

Family: Poaceae

Description: Tall perennial to 15 ft. Stem base fan-shaped. Inflorescences large open nodding panicles. Seeds reddish brown; awns cause itching. *Thaemed*, based on Arabian term for a depression where water collects and evaporates, the natural habitat of this grass; *villosa*, covered with soft hairs, referring to the inflorescence^(5, 70).

Distribution: Native to SE Asia. Naturalized on O‘ahu before 1924. Occurs in dry to moist pastures and other disturbed sites on Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, and Hawai‘i⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Forms tall, pure stands in pastures and disturbed areas. Awns irritating to humans and animals.

Management: Sensitive to foliar application of glyphosate; application more effective if the grass is mowed and the regrowth treated. Intensive grazing of succulent regrowth also effective.

