







Range grasses factsheet

Chloris roxburghiana (Horsetail grass)

A healthy crop of <i>Chloris roxburghiana</i>	Picture of <i>Chloris roxburghiana</i>	Photograph of <i>Chloris roxburghiana</i>	Farmer demonstration
			
<i>Chloris roxburghiana</i> at KALRO Kiboko seed multiplication plot	<i>Chloris roxburghiana</i> grass species	<i>C. roxburghiana</i> in Magadi Division during germplasm collection	Small scale farmer demonstration of reseeding initiatives using micro catchments
Common names	Scientific name	Synonyms	Family/tribe
Horsetail grass, plume chloris	<i>Chloris roxburghiana</i>	<i>C. myriostachya</i> Hochst.	Poaceae
Description	It is a perennial species occurring at 0-1500m above sea level in open grasslands. The inflorescence is 6-20cm, feathery and pale green or purple when young. Tufted perennial that grows up to 120 cm high.		
Distribution	Arid and semi-arid counties of Kenya.		
Ecology	Major grass component in dry areas and has the widest ecological adaptation. Drought tolerant requiring 500-625 mm of rainfall. Does well in Loose sandy soils, loams and alluvial silts. Good for soil and water conservation		
Agronomy	<p>Establishment: - Land preparation should be completed just before the rains begin in the ASALs from beginning to mid-October in the Southern Rangelands and late February to mid-March in the Northern counties. Preparation methods include – use of ox-plough, range pits, no-till and mechanized land preparation Planting is carried out through broadcasting and drilling in furrows</p> <p>Weed control: Very important during the first year. Done by hand by either uprooting or using a hoe or use of selective herbicides</p> <p>Harvesting and storage: The seeds are harvested when they show signs of browning (straw color) before the start of seed fall by stripping the ripe panicles. Carried out during dry conditions. The seeds are stored in air dry conditions away from moisture and rodents.</p>		

Production potential/ Feeding value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crude protein 7-14% and sometimes up to 16% at early flowering • It is a highly palatable especially when young • Biomass 9.9tons/ha/yr • Up to 657 bales of hay weighing 15kg • Also can be used as garden ornamental
Varieties	None, wild species
Source of Seed	KALRO Kiboko and partners such as farmer groups
Reference Links – book, journal paper, magazine, brochure, bulletin, fact sheet, web etc.	http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/agpc/doc/gbase/data/pf000201.htm