

**Plant:** Ventenata (Ventenata dubia)

**This is not a state listed noxious weed.**

**Identification:** Ventenata is a branched winter annual grass with slim, upright stems that can grow up to 18 inches tall. It has leaves that are along the stems that are usually rolled over that are smooth and hairless. The top of the plant with the seed heads is usually pyramid shaped. Due to this plant containing silica, it becomes a poor forage for animals once it reaches maturity and animals will usually avoid it. Ventenata reproduces by seed, with each plant producing up to 35 seeds. It is typically found in open areas with heavy moisture in early spring, which dry out faster in late spring. It can grow in a variety of areas including rangeland, in the hills (especially south facing slopes), roadsides, or invading hay crops and other perennial grasses.

**Defense:** Mechanical control may be possible for very small infestations by hand pulling while the soil is moist. Frequent mowing before the seeds are formed can help control this plant from spreading, but it will need to be done several times in a season because the plant will continue growing and producing a seed head. The seeds can last up to 3 years, so a 3 year management plan will likely be necessary. Contact your local county weeds superintendent for a management plan.

