**Fountain Grass**
*Pennisetum setaceum*
Grass family (*Poaceae*)

**Buffelgrass**
*Pennisetum ciliare*
*Syn. Cenchrus ciliare*

**Key characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant</th>
<th><strong>Fountain Grass</strong> – Figures 1, 3</th>
<th><strong>Buffelgrass</strong> – Watch List Figures 2, 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stem</td>
<td>perennial clumping grass, from 1.5 to 5 feet tall</td>
<td>perennial clumping grass up to 1.5 feet tall by 3 feet wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaves</td>
<td>never branches, erect dense clumps green to tan except red stem variety</td>
<td>branches profusely producing new leaves and flower spikes; ages green to tan; forms messy looking clumps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaves</td>
<td>ages green to brown, wiry, 0.8-2.6 inches long by 0.1 inch wide leaves grow from base</td>
<td>linear, brown in winter and green in summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower heads</td>
<td>round, 3-12 inches long; pink or purplish</td>
<td>round, 1.5 to 5 inches long; green then brown to purplish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeds</td>
<td>seeds surrounded by soft silky hairs over 1 inch long</td>
<td>dense bristly seeds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Habitat and Distribution**
Cultivated grass that escapes into disturbed areas, including roadsides and medians, and wildlands; spreads by seed. Sold in nurseries. Escapes from towns into JTNP.

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**Quick Reference**

- **Buffelgrass** – WATCH
- Perennial
- Growing season(s) Warm seasons
- Flowering time(s) Summer-Fall

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**Pulling tips:** Only buy native grasses. If unsure, **forgo**.
- Cut off flowing stalks and put in black bag, let sun cook before disposal
- Dig out clumps – watch for resprouting – control seedlings