



**Mediterranean grass**  
*Schismus arabicus*, *Schismus barbatus*  
 Grass family (Poaceae)

These two species are nearly identical.

Fig. 1 *S. arabicus* Fig. 2 *S. barbatus*

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**Quick Reference**

Annual

Growing season(s)  
 Winter, spring, summer

Flowering time:  
 March-May

**Key characteristics**

**Vegetation** (Figures 3, 4, 5)

- Plants: ages **bright green to purple to tan**; **short, tufted** grass
- Stem/Branch: **green to purple to tan**; **low growing thin** stems up to **8 inches** tall; **many stems growing** out from center
- Leaves: **green to purple, to tan**; **rolled inward, thread-like, smooth**

**Flowers** (Figures 1, 2)

- Flower heads: aging **green to purple to tan**; **2 inches** long at **end** of stem; flowering stem above leaves

**Habitat and Distribution** (Figures 3, 5)

Open rocky slopes, sandy areas, wash margins, common in spaces between shrubs; spreads by seed

**Similar Native Species**

Common name	Scientific name	Distinguishing characters
Six weeks fescue	Vulpia - 12 species	Look alike native grasses may be difficult to identify without a microscope



Fig. 3 Typical plants with flowering heads

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Stems growing from center



Fig. 4 Individual grass

John M. Randall, The Nature Conservancy, Bugwood.org

**Pulling tips**

- This is a ubiquitous invasive. Pulling will not eradicate. Your choice to pull and bag or let it be.

Dried grass between shrubs slowly crumbles away



Fig. 5 Late season

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