Setaria palmifolia (J. Koenig) Stapf

(Pachystachys palmifolia, Panicum palmifolium)

- Other common names include Highland Pitpit; the East Asian evergreen grass gains its name Palm Grass from the resemblance of the foliage to juvenile palm fronds; the long lanceolate spear-shaped leaves are pleated, very scabrous on the pleats, and 1’ to 3’ long by 2’’ to 5’’ wide; the long acuminate leaves on long stalks arch from its base to form a mound 3’ to 5’ (6’) tall and 4’ to 6’ (8’) wide with slender foxtail-like light green to creamy white cylindrical panicles arching to 6’ or 8’ tall.

- Vigorous to a fault at times, seeding in freely where sufficient moisture is available; growth is rapid on moist fertile sites, much slower on drier sites; foliage remains dense in sun or shade; this species can become weedy under favorable circumstances; it is considered to be a noxious weed in some tropical regions, where other members of the genus Setaria P. Beauv. are known as Bristle Grasses.

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