

# Plant of the Month

January 2024

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**POTM** (/in-focus/tag/potm)

*Echinopogon ovatus* (G.Forst.)  
P.Beauv.



*Echinopogon ovatus* (Hedgehog Grass) is a slender, caespitose, annual grass growing to 50 cm (rarely to 1.2 m) high and arising from a slender, often elongated rhizome. The flowering spikelet appears from October to December or January.

The distinctive feature of this grass is the inflorescence, a dense ovoid panicle with protruding awns resulting in a relatively soft hedgehog-

like appearance. The spikelets have a single flower. Another feature is the rough-to-touch culms due to tiny reverse-facing hairs.

Hedgehog Grass occurs in all States and territories except the N.T.; it can also be found in New Guinea and New Zealand. It is widespread in wet sclerophyll woodlands and creeks in sandy clay or loam.

Photo: K.R. Thiele

[Find out more about \*Echinopogon ovatus\* \(G.Forst.\) P.Beauv. \(https://florabase.dbca.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/340?ref=florabase.ghost.io\)](https://florabase.dbca.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/340?ref=florabase.ghost.io)

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