

# Rhynchelytrum repens

## Natal redtop

*Rhynchelytrum repens* (Willd.) Hubb.  
Syn. *Melinis repens*

Family: Poaceae

**Description:** Annual or perennial grass to 3 ft tall. Stems branching at base, loosely arranged, roots at lower nodes in contact with the soil surface, not strongly stoloniferous, nodes hairy, internodes hollow. Sheaths 4 inches long, ligule a fringe of hairs, very short. Flowers in fluffy panicles, purplish pink fading to white with age. From the Greek *rhyncos*, beak; *elytron*, scale, for flower characteristics (the beaked second glume and sterile lemma); *repens*, creeping, for stems that root<sup>(5, 70)</sup>.

**Distribution:** Native to Africa, naturalized throughout the tropics, common throughout Hawai'i in dry to wet disturbed environments<sup>(70)</sup>. A pest in drier forests, roadsides, and agricultural lands.

**Environmental impact:** Displaces low-growing natives; a fire hazard.



**Management:** HAVO staff reported control with glyphosate at 1% of product sprayed to wet (Chris Zimmer, HAVO).