

Taeniatherum caput-medusae

Medusahead

Stem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5-2 ft. tall; slender; round in cross-section
Leaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4-12 in. long, less than 0.12 in. wide; sometimes covered with short hairs; collar region usually has long hairs, auricles and a membranous ligule
Flower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seedhead is a spike, 0.5-2 in. long; awns are stiff, straight or twisted, barbed and up to 3 in. long; spikes often remain intact on dry plants through winter
Root	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fibrous
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grows best on clay soils; primarily infests rangeland; known to occur in Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Humboldt, Pershing, Storey and Washoe counties Annual; reproduces by seed; matures 2-4 weeks later than other annual grasses Unpalatable to grazing animals due to high levels of silica in the foliage and long, stiff awns
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tillage, mowing or grazing prior to seed set can reduce stands Burning has had mixed results; most effective with a hot, slow fire prior to medusahead seed maturity but after other species have dried-down; burning can also be used to reduce the thatch layer, which can increase the performance of soil-applied herbicides Apply imazapic or sulfometuron before emergence or to small, actively growing plants; glyphosate to actively growing plants