

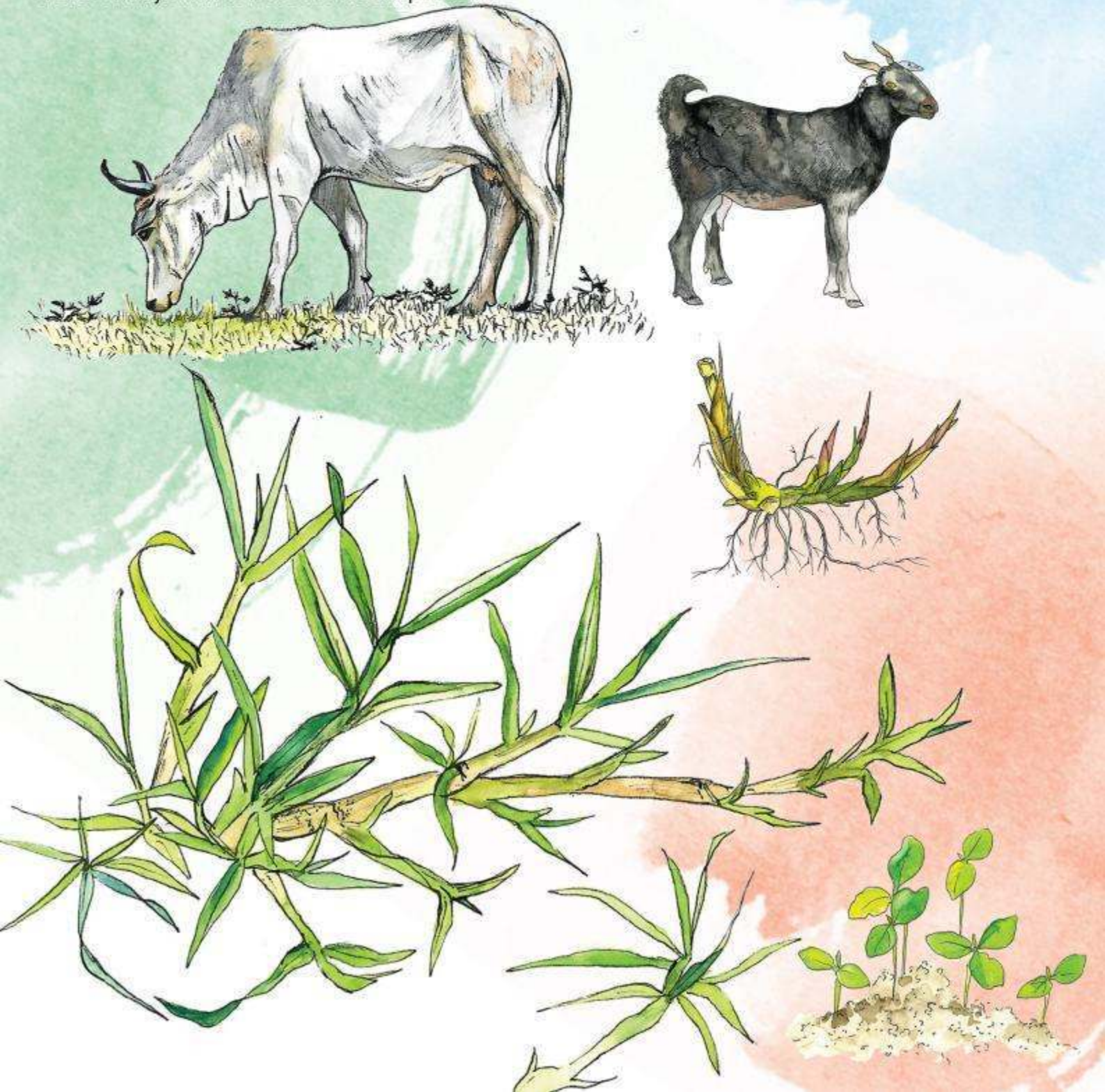
SPECIES: *PENNISETUM CLANDESTINUM*

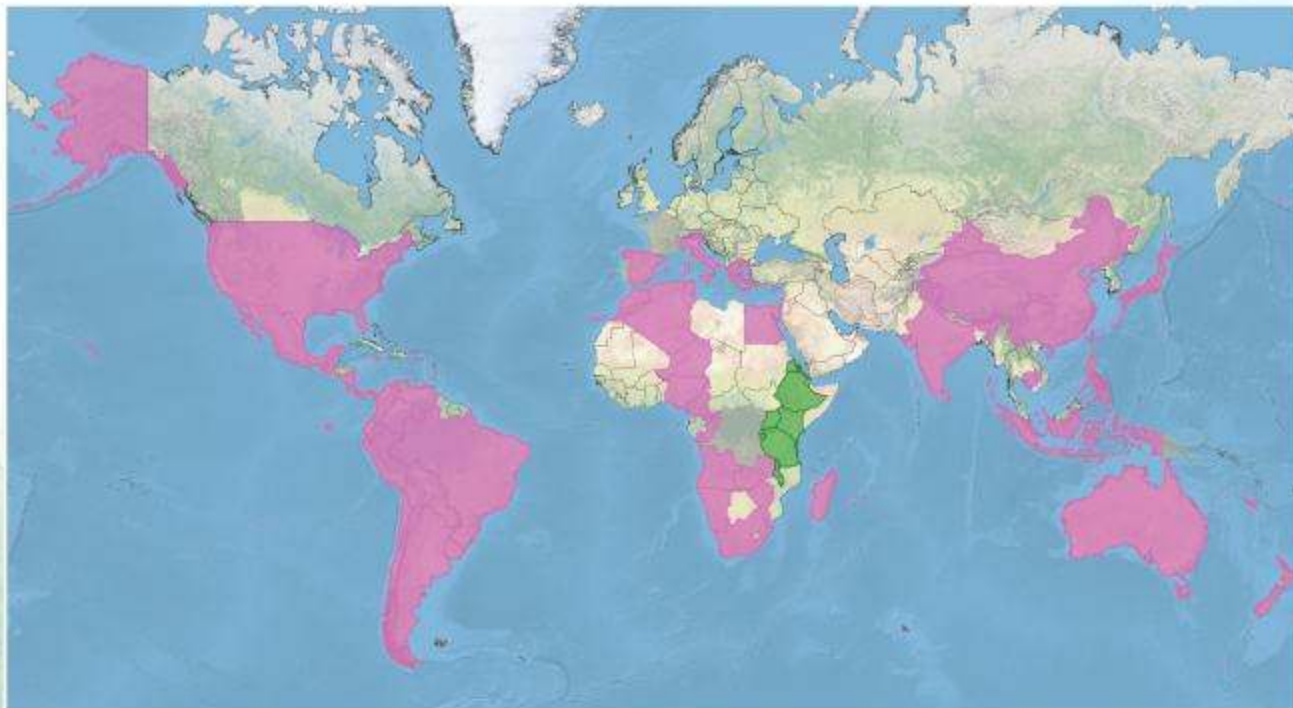
COMMON NAME: LAWN GRASS / KIKUYU GRASS

FAMILY: POACEAE

Plant Description

It is a perennial grass that forms densely tufted mats on the ground. It is found in the Western Ghats, and also in the Himalayas. It grows by extending horizontally through underground rhizomes and runners above the soil. The runners have internodes about 5 cm apart, with a single leaf sheath and blade. The leaf blades are bright green in colour; they are 3-4 mm wide, and usually only a few centimetres long, though they can grow to a length 15 cm. The ligule at the junction of leaf stalks have a short hairy rim. Flowers are inconspicuous.





CABI, 2022. *Pennisetum clandestinum*. In: Invasive Species Compendium. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/39765#toDistributionMaps> [accessed: 25/01/2022]

Introduced
Native
Origin not recorded

***Pennisetum clandestinum* POACEAE**

Origin: Highlands of East Africa

Introduction: Introduced to India as a pasture grass. The exact year of introduction is not known, but it is thought to have been introduced in the early part of the 20th century.

Impacts: The plant can spread rapidly thereby reducing native plant biodiversity. It outcompetes other native plants for resources. The plant is also tolerant of shade, enabling it to spread in the understory of forests.

Management: The mechanical removal of the plant is not easy as it can be deep-rooted (the rhizomes can penetrate the soil up to a depth of 30 cm). So, heavy tilling machinery has to be used during prolonged dry conditions for successful removal. Heavy grazing and mulching, in combination with introduction of white clover, has been found to be effective in Australia.