



## HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

It is an Emergent Invasive in Orange County



### LONG-FLOWERED VELDT GRASS *Ehrharta longiflora*

#### [Known OC Sites & Status Updates](#)

#### Distribution map & info:

- [calflora.org/cgi-bin/species\\_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=8678](http://calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=8678)
- [cal-ipc.org/plants/paf/ehrharta-longiflora-plant-assessment-form/](http://cal-ipc.org/plants/paf/ehrharta-longiflora-plant-assessment-form/)



Long-flowered veldt grass can form dense stands, reducing native plant diversity and increasing fire potential, with a dramatic effect on native plant composition. In coastal areas, native shrub seedlings are unable to compete during periods of rain. Eventually coastal scrub and chaparral communities are converted to grassland. Type conversion to grassland can displace native wildlife by eliminating the open-space shrub structure and native food plants.



Native to southern Africa, long-flowered veldt grass is primarily a winter-growing and spring-flowering annual grass. It has the potential to grow and flower at other seasons, especially when supplemental moisture is present, allowing it to be a widely invasive weed in Mediterranean-climate areas worldwide.

First found in California in the Torrey Pines area in the mid-1990s, by 2005 it had spread through coastal San Diego County as far as the southern end of the Santa Rosa Mts. It was first found in Orange County in 2017.



All photos courtesy of Tom Chester

Long-flowered veldt grass is erect, to about 2 ft. tall. It is so-named because its awns—long stiff tips of the flower parts—are up to about 3/4 in. long—much longer than those of the other *Ehrharta* spp. The leaf blade is also noticeably wider than its relatives.

The seeds, the main form of reproduction, disperse by falling near the parent plant. Florets also disperse to greater distances with human activities, water, soil movement, and possibly animals. Seed longevity in the field is uncertain.

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### IF YOU SEE THIS PLANT AT A SITE THAT'S NOT ON THE LIST:

- Record the plant's location as exactly as you can (GPS coordinates if possible), the date you saw it, and an estimate of how many there were. Include the site's landowner or manager, if known.
- Take identifying photos: the whole plant & its surroundings, closeups of leaves, flowers & fruits/pods.
- If you take a sample, place it immediately into a sealed bag.
- To avoid spreading the plant, check your clothing and shoes thoroughly before leaving the area, and remove and bag all traces of seeds.
- Report the find immediately to [invasives@occnps.org](mailto:invasives@occnps.org).