







Range grasses factsheet

Enteropogon macrostachyus (Bush Rye)

A healthy crop of <i>Enteropogon macrostachyus</i>	Picture of <i>E. macrostachyus</i> inflorescence	Photograph of seed storage containers	<i>E. macrostachyus</i> in natural habitat
			
<i>E. macrostachyus</i> under woody vegetation	<i>E. macrostachyus</i> inflorescence estimated at 15cm	Storage containers made from local material. It should be air tight for long period storage. Tin is the best	<i>E. macrostachyus</i> in a Bushed, rocky area in Magadi Division during a germplasm collection expedition in 2013
Common names	Scientific name	Synonyms	Family/tribe
Bush rye	<i>Enteropogon macrostachyus</i>	Enteropogon simplex	Poaceae
Description	Tufted perennial about 90 cm high and inflorescence about 15 cm long. Occurs at 0 – 1800 m Above sea level. It's frequently found in bushed lands/dense bush.		
Distribution	Bushed or rocky areas in Arid and semi-arid counties of Kenya		
Ecology	Prefers loose sandy loams and loams, but will grow on alluvial silts and rocky soils. Rainfall of about 575mm per annum. Drought tolerant.		
Agronomy	<p>Establishment: Land preparation should be completed just before the rains begin in the ASALs. Early to mid-October in the Southern Rangelands and late February to mid-March in the Northern counties. Preparation methods include – use of ox-plough, range pits, no-till and mechanized land preparation. Planting is carried out through broadcasting or drilling in furrows at 5kg/ha. Fertilizer can be applied at the rate of 50kg/acre DAP especially under drilling.</p> <p>It can be planted in mixtures with other range grasses such as <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>, <i>Chloris roxburghiana</i> and <i>Eragrostis superba</i></p> <p>Due to high germination capacity, the species fully covers the ground within a few seasons. Thus low weed infestation in subsequent seasons</p> <p>Harvesting is done when the seeds show signs of browning before the start of seed fall. Carried out during dry conditions. The seeds are stored in air dry conditions away from moisture and rodents.</p>		

Production potential/ Feeding value	It is highly palatable and is normally commonly overgrazed due to high preference by livestock
Varieties	None, wild species
Source of Seed	KALRO Kiboko and partners- farmer groups and individuals
Reference Links – book, journal paper, magazine, brochure, bulletin, fact sheet, web etc.	http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/AGPC/doc/Gbase/data/pf000238.htm