

1 **Appendix 1.** List of grass species and cover types in seven sward types.

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Abbreviation	Scientific name	Common name
ArCo	<i>Aristida congesta</i>	Tassel Three-awn
ArDi	<i>Aristida diffusa</i>	Iron Grass
bare soil	-	-
BrDe	<i>Brachiaria deflexa</i>	False Signal Grass
BrSpec	<i>Brachiaria spec.</i>	-
ChPy	<i>Chloris pycnothrix</i>	Spiderwep Grass
CyDa	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Couch Grass
ErBa	<i>Eragrostis barbinodis</i>	Small Broad Curly Leaf
ErBi	<i>Eragrostis biflora</i>	Shade Eragrostis
ErCu	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Weeping Love Grass
ErLe	<i>Eragrostis lehmaniana</i>	Lehmann's Love Grass
ErPl	<i>Eragrostis plana</i>	Tough Love Grass
ErRi	<i>Eragrostis rigidior</i>	Broad Curly Leaf
ErSpec	<i>Eragrostis spec.</i>	-
ErSu	<i>Eragrostis superba</i>	Saw-tooth Love Grass
HeCo	<i>Heteropogon contortus</i>	Spear Grass
HyDi	<i>Hyperthelia dissoluta</i>	Yellow Thatching Grass
HyHi	<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>	Common Thatching Grass
MeRe	<i>Melinis repens</i>	Natal Red Top
no-grass spec.	forbs and woody species	-
PaMa	<i>Panicum maximum</i>	Guinea Grass
PePa	<i>Perotis patens</i>	Cat's Tail
PoSq	<i>Pogonarthria squarrosa</i>	Herringbone Grass
SeVe	<i>Setaria verticillata</i>	Bur Bristle Grass
SpAf	<i>Sporobolus africanus</i>	Ratstail Dropseed
spec2	unknown grass spec.	-
spec3	unknown grass spec.	-
spec4	unknown grass spec.	-
spec5	unknown grass spec.	-
SeVe	<i>Setaria verticillata</i>	Bur Bristle Grass
SpAf	<i>Sporobolus africanus</i>	Ratstail Dropseed
SpSpec	<i>Sporobolus spec.</i>	-
ThTr	<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Red Grass
TrGr	<i>Trichoneura grandiglumis</i>	Small Rolling Grass
UrMo	<i>Urochloa mosambicensis</i>	Bushveld Signal Grass
UrPa	<i>Urochloa panicoides</i>	Garden Urochloa
UrSpec	<i>Urochloa spec.</i>	-

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1 **Appendix 2.** Cover [%] of grass species, bare soil and no-grass species in seven sward types. See Appendix 1 for species codes.

Sward type	Sample	ArCo	ArDi	Bare soil	BrDe	Br spec	ChPy	CyDa	ErBa	ErBi	ErCu	ErLe	ErPl	ErRi	Er spec	ErSu	spec 2	spec 3	spec 4	spec 5	HeCo	HyDi	HyHi	MeRe	No-grass	PaMa	PePa	PoSq	SeVe	SpAf	Sp spec	ThTr	TrGr	UrMo	UrPa	Ur pec				
Cyda	1			17.5	10			56.5	3.5							4					2				2.5										4					
	2			7.5				73	6.5							11									2															
	3			17			1	48.5	6		1.5	5									4.5				16.5															
	4			43		1		55																	1															
	5	0.5		19.5				75																	5															
Erba	1			52					45															1.5		1											1			
	2			51.5					45.5																	3														
	3			41				6.5	51.5																	1														
	4			35.5					62.5															2																
	5			48.5					47.5															2.5		1.5														
Mixshort	1			28.5				15	3.5						1	10					2	32.5			2	4	1											0.5		
	2			49				0.5														2	47.5		1															
	3			23				11.5																	5.5	2	2													
	4	2.5		41.5				1.5	1						0.5							3.5	47.5		2.5															
	5	1		6				45							1.5	37.5									11	0.5														
Hydi	1	0.5		39				0.5	1						6						1	20	27.5	1	3.5															
	2	0.5		65.5																					0.5													3		
	3		2.5	23.5																					2															
	4			5										2.5	3	2						1	42.5	4			4													
	5			50				1	12.5																25	5	3	2.5									1			
Mixtall	1			7.5		0.5	64	3				7	1.5											2.5													24.5	0.5		
	2			10			28	12.5				9			15	7									1											7		11.5		
	3						25	12.5							32.5	15									10.5											10				
	4			1.5			4.5	18							2.5	43.5									8.5													27.5		
Pamashort	1			29																					5	57.5														
	2			32.5						2															10	62.5		2.5												
	3			38.5																					19.5	61														
	4			30				5																	7.5	60														
Pamatall	1			37.5																					25	55.5		2										5		
	2			36.5																					6	57.5														

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