

Sward Height Ruler

See reverse side for steps to measure average bulk sward height of native grasses.



20cm

Themeda avenacea
- native oat grass

Austrostipa aristiglumis
- plains grass

Poa labillardierei
- tussock grass

Sorghum leiocladum
- wild sorghum



10cm

Themeda triandra - kangaroo grass

Austrostipa scabra - speargrass

Poa sieberiana - grey tussock grass

Rytidosperma longifolium
- long-leaved wallaby grass



5cm

Microlaena stipoides
- weeping grass

Poa meionectes
- fine-leaved snow grass

Rytidosperma carphoides
- short wallaby grass

Measuring Sward Height

1. Place the Sward height ruler vertically onto the soil surface. Do not push it into the ground or sit it on top of dead pasture.
2. Slide your thumb down the ruler until it reaches the average height of the bulk of the grass (including leaves) taking care not to measure the stems or flower heads.
3. Measure the average height of the grass at an appropriate number of sites to get a good sample of the grass representation.



Figure 1. shows the correct point to measure for average bulk sward height.



Figure 2. shows the incorrect point to measure. Measuring to the top of flowers or stalks will give an inaccurate average bulk sward height.