

Annual poa, barley grass and bathurst bur

Annual poa (*Poa annua*)

- Summary** Widespread grass weed - abundant in many pastures. Annual.
- Identification** Up to 20 cm tall, it grows quickly and heads all year round. It has fine soft light green leaves with tips that curve upwards.
- Characteristics** Annual poa grows aggressively in bare areas of pasture in autumn, winter and spring. Typically it finishes seeding and dies in spring when it gets dry. Poa can be abundant in pastures, filling gaps even on compacted ground. Is eaten by stock.



Barley grass (*Critesion* sp.)

- Summary** Widespread, particularly in drier close grazed pastures. Annual.
- Identification** Has dull green twisted leaves and seed heads that resemble barley.
- Characteristics** Does not establish well in dense pasture. Its seed can penetrate the skin of sheep. Seeds are only viable for one to two years so preventing it from seeding can be an effective control method. Few barley grass plants appear following cultivation.



Bathurst bur (*Xanthium spinosum*)

- Summary** Occasionally found in Auckland and Hawkes Bay. Annual.
- Identification** Spiny, with branching upright stems. Leaves are three pronged, narrow and pointed, with a distinctive white midrib.
- Characteristics** Flowers from December to April. Its hooked seedpod is easily carried in animal hides or on clothing.

