

How to Identify Indiangrass

Sorghastrum nutans

Color: Leaves have a blue-green color, with dull purple stems (not a totally reliable way to identify).

Shape: Tips of leaves are very spiky in appearance. Tillers have a flattened appearance, not very round, hard to roll in between fingers. Also, the nodes on the tillers are hairy.

Leaves: Leaves have very few hairs on them. Emergent leaves are rolled in appearance, not folded or flat. Indiangrass has a pair of stiff, pointed, clawlike auricles where the leaf blade attaches to the sheath.

Ligule: When leaf is pulled away from tiller, where sheath and leaf meet, there is usually a stiff woody ligule that will pop out at the junction. It is shaped like the rear sight on a rifle, with 2 ears, one on each side.

Seed Head: Six to twelve inches long. Has a golden/copper color when dry, with short hairs on the spikelets, and long awns at the tips.

