



Austrostipa elegantissima

Elegant Spear-grass



(Fagg, M, Australian Plant Image Index)



(Nicolson, K, iNaturalist Australia)



Adult male and female Common Brown butterflies



(iNaturalist Australia)

(South Australian Butterflies & Moths)

Form: *grass clumping* **Height:** *1 – 2 m* **Spread:** *up to 1 m* **Flowers:** -- **Type:** *Grass panicle* **Flowering time:** *Spring, Summer*

Ecological functions:  **Soils:** *sand, clay or loam; alkaline or neutral*

Germination rate: *2 to 4 weeks*

Seed collecting: gently strip the seeds off the mature fruiting spike. Mature seeds are brown and will come off easily.

Seed treatment: none

Sowing requirements: push the seed points into the soil and firm gently. Then cover with a layer of gravel. Sow in Autumn.

Position: full sun

Supplementary watering: minimal

Uses: an ornamental tufting perennial for mixed native landscapes, borders, and wider verges. Food host to Common Brown (*Heteronympha merope merope*) caterpillars.

Notes: *Austrostipa* tends to grow in clumps. Do not thin out.

Sources: Botanical Gardens of South Australia; Seeds of South Australia; TreeProject; Trees For Life, Tree Scheme: Grower's Handbook; South Australian Butterflies & Moths)