Mediterranean needle grass
*Stipa capensis*
Grass family (Poaceae)

**Key characteristics**

**Vegetation** (Figures All)
- **Plant:** ages green to tan; flower heads with long bristles; feathery looking at maturity
- **Stem/Branch:** stems 4-12 inches long
- **Leaves:** thin blades, mostly at base of plant, are 2 to 6 inches long and rolled inward with age; +/- hairy; tips taper to a sharp point; one leaf below each flower head

**Flowers** (Figures All)
- **Flower heads:** individual flowers have 2 to 4 inch bristles; young flower head is ‘needle’ like with bristles pointing upward, at maturity twisting bristles bend outward
- **Seeds:** break apart at maturity

**Habitat and Distribution**
Desert scrub, roadsides, disturbed areas; currently only in Coachella Valley; spreads by seed

**Similar Native Species:**

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**Quick Reference**

Park WATCH list
Naturalized in the Coachella Valley/Sonoran Desert with specimens collected near the south boundary of JOTR

Winter Annual
Flowering time(s)
Spring