

Perennial C4 tussock forming grass, 12-60 cm high.

Produces palatable, high protein leaves after spring or summer rains (Photo a).

Once seeds are produced, palatability is switched off by the plant, and loses its lush appearance.

(Compare photos a and b).

Cotton panic demonstrates clearly the misunderstanding of many native grasses, in that land managers do not appreciate its value, as it is not recognized until seeds form and the stock are ignoring it.

Cotton panic reminds me of lavender with it's pale mauve seed heads.

Grows on most soil types.

# Cotton Panic

*Digitaria brownii*

## Identification

**Stems** numerous, 4-5 noded, branched, usually hairy near the base, often extremely thin.

**Leaves** flat, soft, 4-16 mm long, to 5 mm wide long-pointed, roughened, with thickened white and wavy edges, curling and twisting on drying.

**Seedheads** 6-11 cm long, consisting of 1-7 (usually 3) branches arranged singly or in pairs on the main axis, branches 2-12 cm long, lower ones spreading.

**Seeds** 3-5 mm long including the prominent covering of long silky brownish or purple hairs



Photo by George Taylor

