

resemble in a general way small watermelons; the white flesh is edible only after cooking and is used for conserves and pies." (P. G. Russell.)

Danthonia setacea (Poaceae), 54736. **Grass.** From Hobart, Tasmania. Seeds collected by Mr. Victor O. Fletcher, Newnham, near Launceston, and presented by Mr. L. A. Evans, acting Director of Agriculture. "A good native grass." (Evans.)

A valuable perennial pasture grass frequently less than a foot high, common in many localities in Australia and New Zealand. The soft narrow leaves are mostly short and erect, and either smooth or somewhat pubescent with spreading hairs. In the spring the dense, narrow, branching panicles glisten with white-haired flowering glumes.

The species of *Danthonia* are probably the most important economic grasses of New South Wales. In New Zealand they are recommended only for the poorer soils of the South Island; but in the North Island they are considered very valuable pasture grasses, and are credited with carrying two sheep to the acre. In New South Wales the *Danthonia* grasses are commonest on the tablelands and slopes, where they constitute about 90 per cent of the dominant grasses in well-managed pasture, sometimes, indeed monopolizing the whole situation. In coastal districts they are common in newly cleared areas, in scrub lands, and very often in well-worked fallowed fields. In western districts they are just a little less abundant than on the slopes and tablelands. The *Danthonia* grasses can therefore be termed the commonest and most widely distributed grasses of New South Wales, and without them our pastoral industry would suffer considerably.

The *Danthonias* are tussocky in habit, but they stool considerably and will stand a great amount of grazing. Some of the species are rather hairy, particularly those of the western plains, but evidently this is no drawback as far as palatability is concerned. During the hot summer months the grass dies off considerably, but can be revived in a wonderful manner by rain.

The value of the *Danthonia* grasses in respect to palatability, both for cattle and for sheep, has been well proved by every stockman. The forms that grow abundantly in the coastal districts (*Danthonia longifolia* and *D. racemosa* types) fatten horses and dairy stock very quickly; while on the tablelands and slopes and