

## ***Nardus stricta* L.**

## **Mat-grass**

Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Near Threatened

VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Scarce

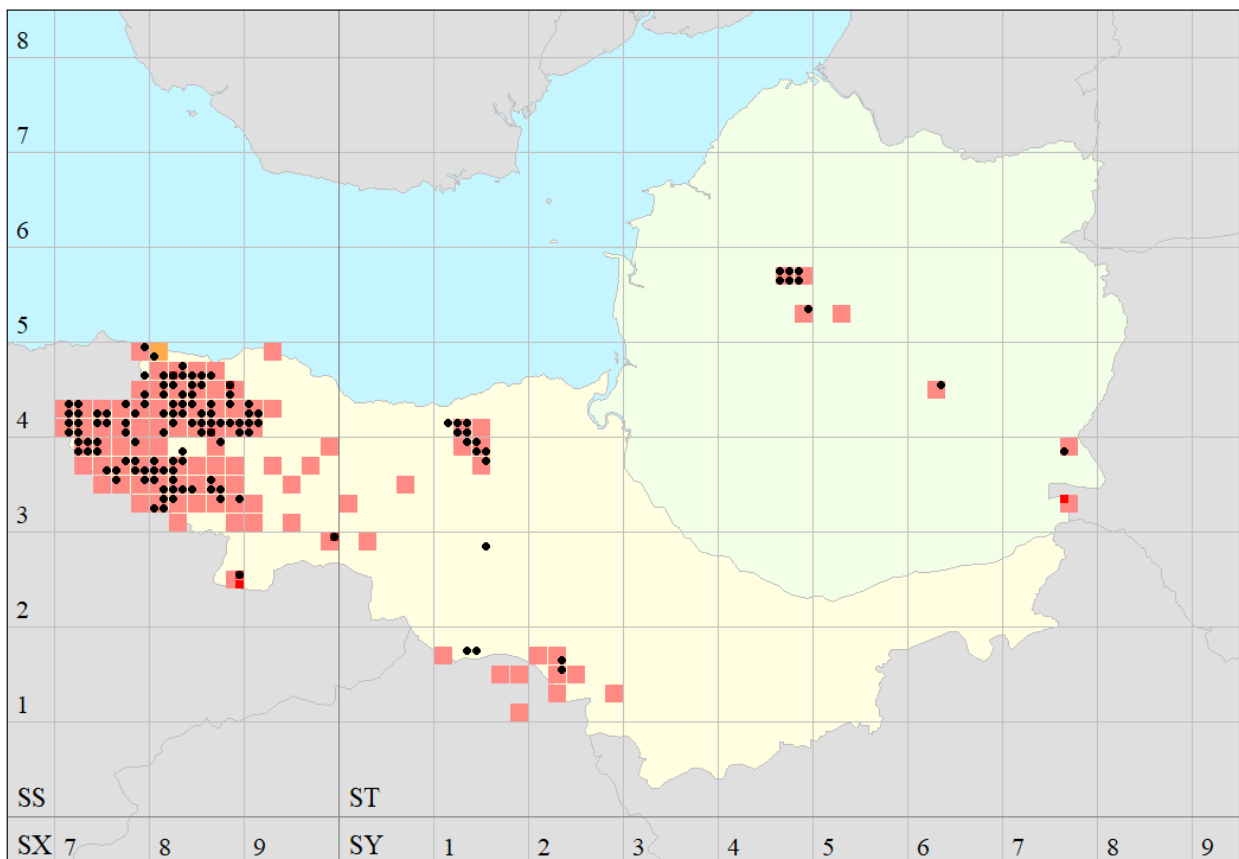
A densely tufted perennial grass of infertile acidic soils on heaths and moors. In VC5 this species is common on Exmoor and the Quantocks. It appears to have declined in the east part of Exmoor and on the Brendons, and has only a few recent records on the Blackdowns. In 2000, Mat-grass was found at Ash Priors Common (ST152288), but there have been no subsequent records for that site. In VC6 this species has always been scarce. White (1912) listed three sites: boggy moorland on Black Down, where it is still to be found; near the Mineries on Mendip and on the boggy margins of a stream between the Tan-pits and Failand Farm. In 1994 it was recorded during a survey of Chancellor's Farm (ST5252), northeast of Priddy Mineries, but it has not been seen there subsequently. There are no recent records for the Failand area. Marshall (1914) included a record for Shapwick by W. Watson: there have been no other records for the Peat Moors. Away from Black Down, this species is now only known at a few other scattered sites on the Mendips, where the Old Red Sandstone outcrops, and on the Lower Greensand in the east of VC6 where it has only recently been recorded in one field. *Nardus stricta* has declined in lowland Britain due to loss of habitat; in Somerset this species appears to have been lost from several sites.



*Nardus stricta* on Beacon Hill (2010). Photo: HJC

## VC6

Black Down		ST4656	2008	EJMcD	
Black Down		ST4657	2008	EJMcD	
Black Down		ST4757	2018	HJC, SRPG	
Black Down		ST489568	2010	HJC, EJMcD	Many clumps on W side of path
Black Down		ST4857	2018	MAW	
GB Gruffy	SSSI	ST4756	2004	SRPG	
Cheddar Head		ST493530	2010	MAW	6 clumps at top of slope
Cheddar Head		ST494531	2010	MAW	8 clumps beside path, on hump of ground
Chancellor's Farm	SSSI	ST5252	1994	[PRG, IPG, GAC]	Field 4
Beacon Hill		ST63264596	2010	HJC, EJMcD	Several clumps on E bank of dry ditch
Beacon Hill		ST63274594	2010	HJC, EJMcD	Several clumps on banks of dry ditch
Witham Park		ST76273890	2020	HJC, GHR	2 clumps on old track on N-facing slope
Heath Hill Farm	SSSI	[ST760335]	1995	JB,MER,PruP,PhW	



Distribution of *Nardus stricta* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate. Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999 records