

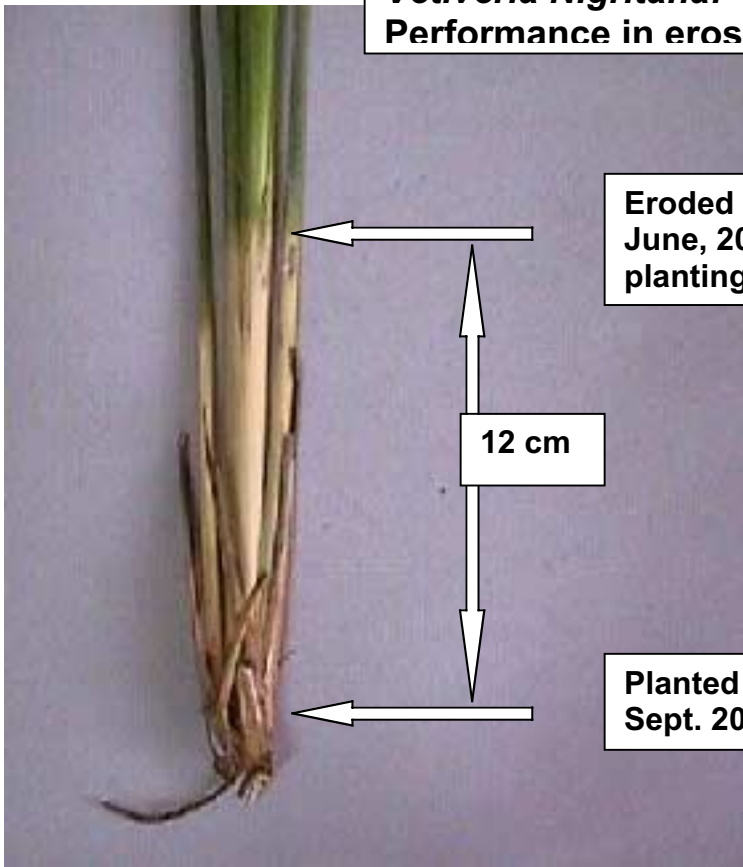
These pictures provide a partial explanation of the difference between *V. nigritana* and *V. zizanioides*.

From Criss Juliard -- Senegal

From what I have been able to observe, *nigritana* does not develop roots on its stem when accumulated soil builds on the up-hill side of the plant. Or at least it has not done so in a year's growth cycle. *Zizanioides*, on the other hand, does "grow up-the-hill, by developing roots from its stem, as shown in the second image. This difference might explain why traditionally, where *nigritana* is found in Africa (often in areas flooded by rivers), we do not find "anti-erosion" practiced among its uses. The plant, roots, and leaves have had a variety uses over time, particularly in Senegal. These have centered predominately on water purification (roots are put into the "canary" or the drinking water earthen pot to "improve its taste, and clean the water." Its leaves have been used in handicraft, brick building, bee hives, and thatch; the plant has been used to delimit vegetable plots; the root has been used for a variety of medicinal practices, particularly as a "cleansing" agent. We have never had confirmation that the seeds are fertile, but it would not surprise me if you found seeds that could reproduce.

Other characteristics that distinguish the two varieties: *Zizanioides* is more resistant to drought, it develops faster, stays green longer, does not dry out from the center as older *nigritana* does, and its roots are considerably longer than *V. nigritana*. We have not seen *nigritana* roots exceed 75 cm.

Vetiveria Nigritana:
Performance in erosion control

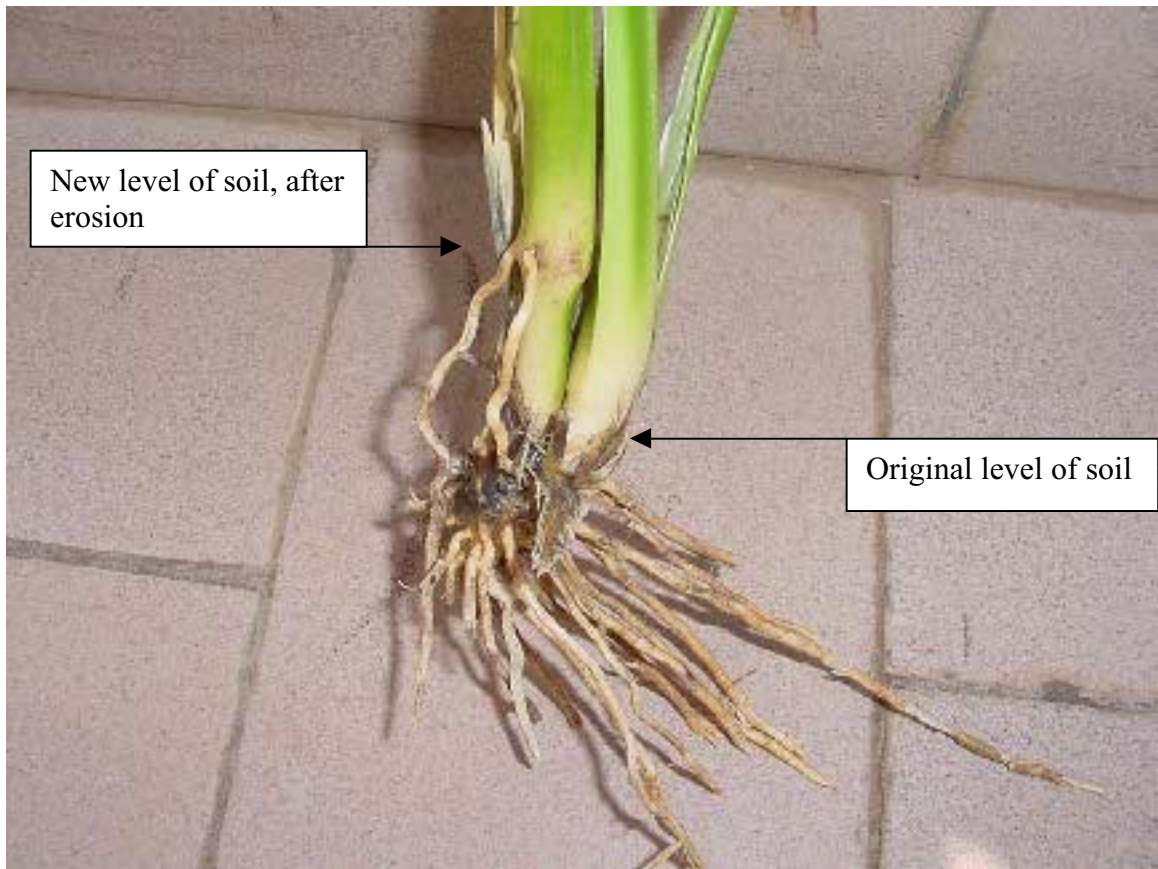


Eroded sand rose to here by June, 2001, 10 months after planting. No root growth on stem

Planted at this level Sept. 2000

Hedge from which tiller was uprooted.
Note absence of new root growth on stem





v. zizanioides: growth of new roots on stem 3 months after planting and an accumulation of eroded soil (on the left side of plant)