Comparison of rooting characteristics of *Vetiveria nigratana* and *Vetiveria zizanioides*

Photos from Criss Juliard

**Vetiveria Nigratana:**
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

12 cm

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

*V. nigratana* Roots develop from base of plant, none develop higher up on the culm.
V. nigratana. Root development at base only
V. zizanioides: growth of new roots on stem 3 months after planting and an accumulation of eroded soil (on the left side of plant)

Root growth of vetiver plants sent by air from South Africa to Senegal in closed plastic bags. Note length of new roots. 5/2001
These differences in root growth explain why *V. zizanioides* has the capability of developing very high terrace risers -- as the soil builds up behind the hedgerow new roots are developed higher up the plant, and thus the plant grows with the terrace riser. *V. nigratana* appears not to be able to do this