

## Bahia Grass

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|----------------------|---|--|
| <b>Genus/species</b> | <i>Paspalum notatum</i>                 |  |
| <b>Family</b>        | <b>Poaceae</b>                          | (includes all the grasses, including grains)   |
| <b>Distribution</b>  | <b>Southeastern US and S California</b> | Central Texas northward to central Oklahoma<br>Central Oklahoma southeastward to E North Carolina<br>E North Carolina southward to S Florida<br>S Florida westward to central Texas<br>Southwestern half of California |

**Comments** This grass, which is native to Brazil (and named after the eastern state of Bahia), Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, has been introduced into warm areas of the US for use both in lawns and in pastures, but sometimes becomes a roadside weed. It is a perennial species that spreads both by rhizomes and seeds, and finds its greatest use in Florida and coastal areas of nearby states. Bahia Grass is useful because while it prefers moist or even wet soils, it can tolerate drought well, and it tends to grow quickly enough to crowd out weeds. It is a “warm season” grass that grows to be some 12 to 20 inches tall and the flowering stalk usually forms a distinct “Y”. Allergenicity, it demonstrates moderate cross-reactivity with Johnson Grass but relatively little with most other grasses, and is considered to be one of the three main “Southern Grasses”.



## Sweet Vernal Grass

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| <b>Genus/species</b> | <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>  |  |
| <b>Family</b>        | <b>Poaceae</b>  | (includes all the grasses, including grains)   |
| <b>Distribution</b>  | <b>Eastern US and Pacific Coast</b>   | Louisiana northward to Illinois and<br>S Michigan<br>S Michigan eastward to Maine<br>Maine southward to Georgia<br>Georgia westward to Louisiana<br>Pacific Coast from west central<br>California through Washington |
| <b>Comments</b>      | This grass, which is native to the Old World, grows to be some 30 to 60 cm (about 12 to 24 inches) tall, and has rather dense flower heads (but typically less than 3 inches in length) that open somewhat when anthers are exposed. It blooms rather early in the spring. This species will thrive in poor soils and is rather invasive. Although it has a distinct clover-like sweet smell (due to the presence of coumarin), it is rather bitter-tasting and thus seldom eaten by livestock. |  |



## Orchard Grass

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|----------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Genus/species</b> | <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>       |   |
| <b>Family</b>        | <b>Poaceae</b>                  | (includes all the grasses, including grains)  |
| <b>Distribution</b>  | <b>Widespread throughout US</b> | Absent from S Florida and the area from S Louisiana westward to the southern half of California. Introduced from Eurasia. |

**Comments** This grass grows to be some 60 to 100 cm tall, and has rather massive flower heads. It has a bluish-green color, and the upper part of the stem (near the flower heads) feels rough to the touch if one's finger is run along it. Orchard grass develops rather early in the spring in various kinds of sunny, open areas.



## Kentucky Blue/June Grass

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|----------------------|--|
| <b>Genus/species</b> | <i>Poa pratensis</i>   |
| <b>Family</b>        | <b>Poaceae</b> (includes all the grasses, including grains)  |
| <b>Distribution</b>  | <b>Throughout US except peninsular Florida, south Texas and most of intervening Gulf Coast; absent from some hot desert areas</b>  |
| <b>Comments</b>      | Kentucky Blue Grass, also known as June Grass, was introduced from Europe and is naturalized throughout most of the US although it is possible that some populations are also native to North America. Its rather bluish-green leaves have resulted in the name “Bluegrass” for the region of Kentucky famous for its horse farms, where this species is common in pastures. It can be established using either seed or sod, and it may grow to be as tall as 24” although in lawns it may mature to only 6”. Leaves tend to have “boat-shaped” tips (that is, resembling the hull of a boat). Blooming of the pyramid-shaped inflorescence is primarily during mid spring. During warm summer weather it becomes dormant, but it resumes growth with cooler autumn weather. It grows best in cool, humid climates in rich soil not prone to drought. This is considered to be one of the most important allergy-causing plants and cross-reacts with many other species of grass. |



## Johnson Grass

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Genus/species</b> | <i>Sorghum halepense</i>   |
| <b>Family</b>        | <b>Poaceae</b> (includes all the grasses, including grains)  |
| <b>Distribution</b>  | <b>Southern two-thirds of US</b> Central Nevada eastward through Nebraska<br>Nebraska eastward to S Michigan and Massachusetts<br>Massachusetts southward to S Florida<br>S Florida to S Texas to SE California<br>SE California to central Nevada<br>Hawaii |

**Comments** Johnson grass is a rather large perennial grass introduced from the Mediterranean region that is related to the commercially-grown sorghum. It can get to be as tall as eight feet but is usually less than six. Leaves may reach 20 inches in length with a distinct white midvein, and may approach an inch in width. The flower head rather suggests a corn tassel but of more delicate proportions. Blooming is typically in late spring or early summer. Johnson grass attains its best development in warm regions and in rich moist soil. Reproduction can be achieved by seed or by aggressive vegetative spreading of underground rhizomes. This grass is one of the important “southern grasses” from the standpoint of allergy.



## Bermuda Grass

|                      |                            |  |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Genus/species</b> | <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>    |  |
| <b>Family</b>        | <b>Poaceae</b>             | (includes all the grasses, including grains)   |
| <b>Distribution</b>  | <b>Southern half of US</b> | W Oregon southward to SW California<br>SW California eastward to S Texas and S Florida<br>S Florida northward to SE New Hampshire<br>SE New Hampshire southwestward through<br>central Kansas<br>Kansas northwestward to N California and W Oregon<br>Hawaii |

**Comments** This grass, which is native to the savannas of eastern Africa, has been introduced and established in much of the world, including Bermuda from where it is thought to have been brought to the United States. It is commonly grown in warm areas of the US for use in lawns and pastures, but may become an invasive pest. However, Bermuda grass is a favorite for golf greens because its dense growth resists foot traffic and it can be maintained even when mown very closely. It is a perennial species spreading by roots, nodes of runners where they touch the ground, and by seed. Although it makes best development in warm humid areas, it can tolerate drought by becoming dormant. Bermuda grass has short narrow bluish-green leaves that turn brown during cold weather, being a “warm season” grass. The purplish flowering stems can grow over a foot tall, but are typically much shorter, and usually have about 4 to 6 fingerlike seedheads. Allergenicity, it is considered one of three “Southern grasses” and while it is moderately cross-reactive with salt grass, it demonstrates low cross-reactivity with most other grasses.



## Timothy Grass

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Genus/species</b> | <i>Phleum pratense</i>  |
| <b>Family</b>        | <b>Poaceae</b> (includes all the grasses, including grains)   |
| <b>Distribution</b>  | <b>Throughout US; reaches best development in northern half</b>   |
| <b>Comments</b>      | Timothy grass, a clump-forming perennial grass introduced from Europe, is a rather tall species sometimes reaching more than five feet in height. Leaves may approach a foot in length and are about 1/4" in width. The flower head resembles a small green "cat tail" about 2 to 6 inches in length, with purplish stamens often visible hanging along the sides. Blooming is typically in late spring or early summer. Timothy grass is prized for both pastures and for hay, and attains its best development in cool regions as it does not tolerate heat and drought. Reproduction is strictly by seed. This grass is one of the important "pasture grasses" from the standpoint of allergy. |

