

Bahia Grass

Genus/species	<i>Paspalum notatum</i>
Family	Poaceae (includes all the grasses, including grains)
Distribution	Southeastern US and S California Central Texas northward to central Oklahoma Central Oklahoma southeastward to E North Carolina E North Carolina southward to S Florida S Florida westward to central Texas Southwestern half of California
Comments	This grass, which is native to Brazil, 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 by seed. It is a “warm season” grass that grows to be some 12 to 20 inches tall when blooming. The flowering stalk usually forms a distinct “Y”.



Bermuda Grass

Genus/species	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	
Family	Poaceae	(includes all the grasses, including grains)
Distribution	Southern half of US	W Oregon southward to SW California SW California eastward to S Texas and S Florida S Florida northward to SE New Hampshire SE New Hampshire southwestward through central Kansas Central Kansas northwestward to N California and W Oregon Hawaii
Comments	This grass, which is native to the savannas of eastern Africa, has been introduced and become established in many warm areas of the world, including Bermuda from where it was 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 of its dense growth resists foot traffic and it can be maintained even when mown very closely. It is a perennial species that spreads by roots, nodes of runners where they touch the ground, and by seed. Bermuda grass has short narrow grayish-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. The flowering stalk usually has about 4 to 6 fingerlike seedheads.	



Johnson Grass

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



Orchard Grass

Genus/species	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	
Family	Poaceae	(includes all the grasses, including grains)
Distribution	Widespread throughout US	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.	



Sweet Vernal

Genus/species	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	
Family	Poaceae	(includes all the grasses, including grains)
Distribution	Eastern US and Pacific Coast	Louisiana northward to Illinois and S Michigan S Michigan eastward to Maine Maine southward to Georgia Georgia westward to Louisiana Pacific Coast from west central California through Washington
Comments	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.	



Timothy Grass

Genus/species *Phleum pratense*

Family **Poaceae** (includes all the grasses, including grains)

Distribution **Throughout US; reaches best development in northern half**

Comments Timothy grass, a clump-forming perennial grass introduced from Europe, is a rather tall species sometimes reaching more than four feet. Leaves may approach a foot in length and are about ¼" 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.

