

*Alopecurus pratensis*

[Synonyms : *Alopecurus alpinus* var. *songaricus*, *Alopecurus alpinus* var. *ventricosus*, *Alopecurus antarcticus*, *Alopecurus fulvus*, *Alopecurus laguriformis*, *Alopecurus laxiflorus*, *Alopecurus pratensis* subsp. *alpestris*, *Alopecurus seravschanicus*, *Alopecurus soongaricus*, *Alopecurus villosus*, *Phalaris aristata*, *Tozzettia vulgaris*]

**MEADOW FOXTAIL** is a grass. Native to Asia and Europe (including Britain) it has green flower spikelets and orange or purplish pollen.

It is also known as *Alopecuro de los prados* (Spanish), *Ängskavle* (Swedish), *Beemdvossestaart* (Dutch), *Coda di topo commune* (Italian), *Coda di volpe* (Italian), *Cola de zorra* (Spanish), Common foxtail, *Cynffonwellt y Maes* (Welsh), *Cynffon y Cadno* (Welsh), *Denb il-gurdien* (Maltese), *Engrævehale* (Danish), Field meadow foxtail, Foxtail grass, Golden foxtail grass, *Grote vossenstaart* (Dutch), *Grote vossestaart* (Dutch), *Lisochvost lugovoj* (Russian), *Mušec lúčny* (Slovak), *Nurmipuntarpää* (Finnish), *Oo suzumenoteppou* (Japanese), *Prados pobres de siega de baja altitud* (Spanish), *Psiarka lúčna* (Slovak), *Psárka luční* (Czech), *Rabo-de-raposa* (Portuguese), *Rabo de zorra* (Spanish), *Réti ecsetpázsit* (Hungarian), *Vossenstaart* (Dutch), *Vulpin des prés* (French), *Vulpino* (Spanish), *Weide vossestaart* (Dutch), *Wiesenfuchsschwanz* (German), *Wyczyniec lakowy* (Polish), and Yellow foxtail grass; and in flower language it is said to be a symbol of sporting.

*Pratensis* is derived from Latin *pratium* (meadow) meaning ‘of or from meadows’.

In Britain in the 1880s meadow foxtail was a familiar sight in many gardens where it was grown neatly clipped as an edging for flowerbeds.

For some it brings painful childhood memories. It would seem that those of their compatriots with a more spiteful streak took a stalk of meadow foxtail and bared the floret stalks by stripping the flowers from the stem. This spiky stick was then twizzled in the hair of an unsuspecting victim then pulled out suddenly together with all the hair which was twisted on it.

It is grown commercially both for pasture and hay