

### *Cynodon dactylon*

[Synonyms : *Agrostis bermudiana*, *Agrostis filiformis*, *Agrostis linearis*, *Agrostis stellata*, *Capriola dactylon*, *Capriola dactylon* var. *maritima*, *Chloris cynodon*, *Chloris maritima*, *Chloris paytensis*, *Cynodon affinis*, *Cynodon aristiglumis*, *Cynodon aristulatus*, *Cynodon barberi* forma *longifolia*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *affinis*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *aridus*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *biflorus*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *dactylon*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *densus*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *elegans*, *Cynodon dactylon* subsp. *glabratus*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *hirsutissimus*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *longiglumis*, *Cynodon dactylon* forma *major*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *maritimus*, *Cynodon dactylon* subsp. *nipponicus*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *pilosus*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *polevansii*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *pulchellus*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *sarmentosus*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *septentrionalis*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *stellatus*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *villosus*, *Cynodon dactylon* forma *viviparus*, *Cynodon decipiens*, *Cynodon distichloides*, *Cynodon erectus*, *Cynodon glabratus*, *Cynodon hirsutissimus*, *Cynodon iraquensis*, *Cynodon laeviglumis*, *Cynodon linearis*, *Cynodon maritimus*, *Cynodon maritimus* var. *breviglumis*, *Cynodon maritimus* var. *grandispiculus*, *Cynodon maritimus* var. *vaginiflorus*, *Cynodon mucronatus*, *Cynodon nitidus*, *Cynodon occidentalis*, *Cynodon pascuus*, *Cynodon pedicellatus*, *Cynodon polevansii*, *Cynodon portoricensis*, *Cynodon scabrifolius*, *Cynodon stellatus*, *Cynodon tenuis*, *Cynodon umbellatus*, *Cynosurus dactylon*, *Cynosurus uniflorus*, *Dactilon officinale*, *Digitaria ambigua*, *Digitaria dactylon*, *Digitaria glumaepatula*, *Digitaria glumipatula*, *Digitaria linearis*, *Digitaria littoralis*, *Digitaria maritima*, *Digitaria stolonifera*, *Fibichia dactylon*, *Fibichia umbellata*, *Fibichia umbellata* var. *biflora*, *Fibichia umbellata* forma *glabrescens*, *Fibichia umbellata* forma *major*, *Milium dactylon*, *Panicum ambiguum*, *Panicum dactylon*, *Panicum glumaepatulum*, *Panicum glumipatulum*, *Panicum lineare*, *Paspalum ambiguum*, *Paspalum dactylon*, *Paspalum umbellatum*, *Phleum dactylon*, *Syntherisma linearis*, *Vilfa linearis*, *Vilfa stellata*]

**BERMUDA GRASS** is an invasive grass. Native, possibly to India, it has purple- or green-flowered spikelets.

It is also known as *Arugam-pillu* (Tamil), *Baamyudaa gurasu* (Japanese), Bahama grass, *Bermudagræs* (Danish), *Bermudagrass* (German), *Bermudagräs* (Swedish), *Capim-Bermuda* (Brazilian, Portuguese), *Chiendent* (French), *Chiendent amélioré* (French), *Chiendent dactyle* (French), *Chiendent pied-de-poule* (French), Cigar flower, *Cỏ chí* (Vietnamese), *Cỏ gà* (Vietnamese), Cocksfoot-grass, Common bermuda grass, Common quick-grass, Couch, Couch grass, Creeping dog's-tooth-grass, Creeping finger-grass, *Cynodon dactyle* (French), Devil's grass, *Dhase* (Gujarati), Dhob-grass, Dhub-grass, *Dhurva* (Sanskrit), Dog's tooth, Dog's tooth couch grass, Dog's tooth grass, Doob-grass, Doub-grass, Dub-grass, *Dubo* (Nepalese), *Durba* (Bengali), Finger cynodon, *Finger-Hundszahn* (German), Germiston grass, *Gewone Kweekgras* (Afrikaans), *Gramma* (Spanish), *Gramma bermuda* (Portuguese), *Gramma común* (Spanish), *Gramma de España* (Spanish), *Gramma-seda* (Portuguese), *Gramigna comune* (Italian), Green couch, *Grintingan* (Javanese), *Gros chien-dent* (French), *Gyoungishiba* (Japanese), *Handjesgras* (Dutch), Hardgrass, *Hariali* (Hindi), *Harvali* (Telugu), *Haryali* (Marathi), *Hierba Bermuda* (Spanish), *Hierba fina* (Spanish), *Hundszahn* (German), *Hundszahngras*

(German), *Hundtandsgräs* (Swedish), *Hundtunga* (Swedish), *Igoka* (Kikuyu), Indian cough grass, *Jukut kakawatan* (Sundanese), *Kolatai* (Filipino/Tagalog), Kweek grass, *Nagil* (Arabic), *Nigem* (Maltese), *Panjaa* (Nepalese), *Pasto bermuda* (Spanish), *Pied-de-poule* (French), *Prstnatec obyčejný* (Slovak), *Psi zab* (Polish), Reed grass, *Rumput minyak* (Malay), St. Augustine's grass, St. Lucie's grass, Scutch grass, *Seto duvo* (Nepalese), *Situu* (Nepalese), Star grass, *Svinoroj palčatyj* (Russian), *Thaiyil* (Arabic), *Troskut prstnatý* (Czech), *Varvasheinä* (Finnish), Wire grass, *Ya phaet* (Thai), and *Ya phraek* (Thai).

Bermuda grass is considered to be threatened in the wild in Britain.

*Dactylon* is derived from Greek *dactylo-* (finger) with possible reference to a perceived finger-like arrangement of the flower-spikes.

Authorities believe that bermuda grass was introduced to Hawaii in about 1835. Although this is often grown as a lawn grass in India and Egypt, in the United States bermuda grass is viewed as invasive and is contemplated with considerably less enthusiasm. In Britain bermuda grass has been growing as one of the lawns at Kew Gardens for over 100 years.

This grass is sacred for Indian Hindus. According to Hindu legend Vishnu in his mortal guise as Rama attempted fruitlessly to save his wife (at the time Lakhsmi had donned her earthly manifestation too as Sita) from being swallowed up by Mother Earth and held onto her hair. Later he scattered the hair over the earth and it became Bermuda grass.

The grass can be used for binding the soil and providing ground cover and fodder.

Bermuda grass today is cultivated on a commercial scale as pasture, hay and lawn grass, especially in tropical climates.

Medicinally, in India the root has been used to treat piles, fluid retention and some venereal disease. The plant juice has been employed in remedies for epilepsy, insanity, hysteria, dysentery, diarrhoea and fluid retention and has also been applied to wounds.