

Cynodon dactylon

[Synonyms : *Agrostis bermudiana*, *Agrostis filiformis*, *Capriola dactylon*, *Capriola dactylon* var. *maritima*, *Chloris cynodon*, *Chloris paytensis*, *Cynodon aristiglumis*, *Cynodon aristulatus*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *elegans*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *glabratus*, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *maritimus*, *Cynodon erectus*, *Cynodon glabratus*, *Cynodon maritimus*, *Cynodon occidentalis*, *Cynodon pascuus*, *Cynodon polevansii*, *Cynodon portoricensis*, *Cynodon tenuis*, *Cynodon umbellatus*, *Cynosurus dactylon*, *Cynosurus uniflorus*, *Dactylon officinale*, *Digitaria dactylon*, *Digitaria glumaepatula*, *Digitaria littoralis*, *Digitaria maritima*, *Digitaria stolonifera*, *Fibichia dactylon*, *Fibichia umbellata*, *Milium dactylon*, *Panicum dactylon*, *Panicum glumaepatulum*, *Paspalum dactylon*, *Paspalum umbellatum*, *Phleum dactylon*]

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), Bahama grass, *Bermudagräs* (Swedish), *Chien-dent* (French), Cigar flower, 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, *Durba* (Bengali), Finger cynodon, *Finger-Hundszahn* (German), *Gewone Kweekgras* (Afrikaans), *Grama* (Spanish), Green couch, *Grintingan* (Javanese), *Gros chien-dent* (French), Hardgrass, *Hariali* (Hindi), *Harvali* (Telugu), *Haryali* (Marathi), *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), *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, Star grass, *Svinoroj palčatyj* (Russian), *Thaiyil* (Arabic), *Troskut prstnatý* (Czech), and Wire grass.

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

Dactylon is derived from Greek *dactylo-* (finger) component 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.