

### *Echinochloa colona*

[Synonyms : *Echinochloa colona* var. *zonalis*, *Echinochloa colonum*, *Echinochloa colonum* var. *zonalis*, *Echinochloa crusgalli* subsp. *colona*, *Echinochloa equitans*, *Echinochloa zonalis*, *Milium colonum*, *Oplismenus colonus*, *Oplismenus colonus* var. *zonalis*, *Oplismenus crusgalli* var. *colonum*, *Oplismenus muticus*, *Oplismenus repens*, *Panicum colonum*, *Panicum colonum* var. *equitans*, *Panicum colonum* var. *humile*, *Panicum colonum* var. *zonale*, *Panicum crus-galli* var. *colonum*, *Panicum equitans*, *Panicum incertum*, *Panicum musei*, *Panicum prorepens*, *Panicum zonale*]

**SHAMA MILLET** is an annual grass. Possibly native to Africa or India it has green or purplish flower spikelets.

It is known as *Abu rukbah* (Arabic), *Adipul* (Indian, Sri Lankan, Tamil), *Arrocillo* (Spanish), Awnless barnyard grass, Barnyard grass, *Blé du Dekkan* (French), *Bulo* (Ugandan), *Cancao* (Chinese), *Capim arroz* (Portuguese), Cockspur grass, *Colona-Hühnerhirse* (German), Corn panicgrass, Deccan grass, *Dekkangras* (German), *Difra* (Arabic, Sudan), *Giavone meridionale* (Italian), *Giratana* (Sinhalese, Sri Lankan), *Guang tou bai* (Chinese), *Guinga* (Visayan), *Hie* (Japanese), *Jajagoan leutik* (Sundanese), Jungle rice, Jungle ricegrass, *Khauz nôk* (Laotian), *Ko-hime-hie* (Japanese), *Kurinoe proso* (Russian), *Kycklinghirs* (Swedish), *Milhã-listrada* (Portuguese), Millet grass, Millet rice, *Myet thi* (Burmese), *Padi burong* (Javanese, Malay), *Panic des cultivateurs* (French), *Panico porporino* (Italian), *Pasto colorado* (Argentinian, Spanish), *Pazun sa myet* (Burmese), *Pied de coq méridional* (French), *Pierna de gallo meridional* (Spanish), *Pulang puwit* (Tagalog), *Rumput bebek* (Indonesian, Malay), *Rumput kekusa* (Malay), *Rumput kusa-kusa* (Indonesian, Malay), *Saama ghans* (Nepalese), *Sami-dhan* (Bengali), *Sawa* (Hindi), *Sawa millet*, *Sawuk* (Sindhi, Urdu), Southern cockspur, *Südlliche Hühnerhirse* (Bengali), *Tavshéan otu* (Turkish), *Telebun* (Sudanese), *Tuton* (Javanese), *Wang bai* (Chinese), *Wang ji* (Chinese), *Wase-bie* (Japanese), Watergrass, *Watuton* (Javanese, Malay), *Wimbi* (Swahili), *Xrika* (Maltese), *Ya nok khao* (Thai), *Ya nok sichom phu* (Thai), and *Zuidelijke hanepoot* (Dutch).

The flowers are pollinated by wind.

Warning – authorities note that if eaten to excess by horses especially it can be poisonous.

*Colona* is Greek (hill) meaning ‘cultivated, forming a mound’.

In parts of Asia and Africa shama millet (which will grow in temperate, semi-tropical and tropical regions) is cultivated for both man and livestock. On these Continents the yellowish-white grain provides food (often eaten raw with rice, *Oryza*) and in Java (now part of Indonesia) for instance the young shoots are also eaten as a vegetable. (At some point it was introduced to North America and there for the Cocopa North American Indian tribe shama millet provided a staple food.) The dried ground seeds have offered a flour that has been eaten either raw or cooked into a kind of porridge. Authorities note that in some areas it is viewed primarily as a famine food.

The grass is cut as hay in warm climates. (Authorities have recommended that it should not exceed one third of horses’ feed.)

Where shama millet has been introduced in some parts of North America the grass is now considered to be invasive.

