

Echinochloa crus-galli

[Synonyms : *Echinochloa crus-galli* var. *aristata*, *Echinochloa crus-galli* var. *michauxii*, *Echinochloa crus-galli* var. *muricata*, *Echinochloa crus-galli* subsp. *spiralis*, *Echinochloa crus-galli* forma *vittata*, *Echinochloa echinata*, *Echinochloa muricata*, *Echinochloa pungens*, *Echinochloa pungens* var. *coarctata*, *Milium crus-galli*, *Oplismenus crus-galli*, *Oplismenus echinatus*, *Oplismenus muricatus*, *Orthopogon echinatus*, *Panicum crus-galli*, *Panicum crus-galli* var. *aristatum*, *Panicum crus-galli* var. *echinatum*, *Panicum crus-galli* var. *mite*, *Panicum echinatum*, *Panicum grossum*, *Panicum muricatum*, *Panicum pungens*, *Pennisetum crus-galli*, *Setaria muricata*]

COCKSPUR is an invasive grass. Native to North America it has green or reddish-brown flower spikelets.

It is also known as *Bai* (Chinese), *Bai cao* (Chinese), *Báo 'báo'* (Philippines), *Barasanwark* (Punjabi), Barn grass, Barnyard grass, Barnyard millet, *Bayokibok* (Tagalog), *Bharti* (Hindi), Billion dollar grass, *Burashama* (Bengali), *Canârie* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), *Capin arroz* (Argentinian, Spanish), *Chwastnica jednostronna* (Polish), *Cibogwellt Rhydd* (Welsh), Cocksfoot, Cockspur grass, *Có lông vưc* (Vietnamese), *Danãn* (Arabic), *Dhunaybah* (Arabic), *Dineba* (Turkish), *Dinêbâ* (Arabic), *Échinochloa piéd de coq* (French-Canadian, French-Swiss), *Ezhovnik obyknovennyi* (Russian), *Gagajahan* (Sundanese), *Giavone* (Italian), *Giavone comune* (Italian, Swiss), *Hanepoot* (Dutch), *Hanespore* (Danish), *Herbe à pithot* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), *Hie* (Japanese), *Hönshirs* (Swedish), *Hühner-Hirse* (German), *Inu-bie* (Japanese), *Jajagoaan* (Sundanese), *Jalsamoka* (Sanskrit), Japanese millet, *Jawan* (Javanese, Malay), *Ježatka kuria noha* (Slovak), *Ježatka kuří noha* (Czech), *Ježovnik* (Russian), Jungle rice, *Kananhirssi* (Finnish), *Kathirai val pul* (Indian, Sri Lankan, Tamil), *Kurinoe proso* (Russian), Large barnyard grass, *Maratu* (Sinhalese, Sri Lankan), *Mijo de los arrozales* (Spanish), *Myet ihi* (Burmese), *No bie* (Japanese), *Pabbio* (Italian), *Padi-burong* (Malay), *Padi-burung* (Indonesian, Malay), *Panicastrella* (Italian, Swiss), *Panicastrella d'acqua* (Italian), *Panicastrella di palude* (Italian), *Panico bastardo* (Italian), *Panico di risai* (Italian), *Panico selvatico* (Italian), *Panic piéd de coq* (French), *Pata de gallo* (Spanish), *Peddawundu* (Telugu), *Pi* (Korean), *Piéd de coq* (French), *Pie de gallina* (Spanish), *Pirinc otu* (Turkish), Prickly grass, *Rumput kekusa besar* (Malay), *Rumput sambau* (Malay), *Saama* (Nepalese), *Samak* (Hindi), *Sanwak* (Hindi), *Shui bai* (Chinese), *Shui bai cao* (Chinese), *Smao bek kbol* (Khmer), *Tähk-kukehirss* (Estonian), *Tunde saama* (Nepalese), *Wel-marukku* (Sinhalese), *Xrika* (Maltese), *Ya khao nok* (Thai), *Ya plonglaman* (Thai), *Ye can zi* (Chinese), *Zacate de agua* (Spanish), and *Zampa di gallo* (Italian).

Warning – it is poisonous for horses if eaten to excess.

Crus-galli means 'cock's spur'.

North American Indian tribes, such as the Paiute, Cocopa and Tubatulabal in Arizona and southern California, ate the grain. The Cocopa stored the seeds for Winter while the Yuma Indians harvested and ground them into a meal for a porridge-like dish eaten with fish. On the other side of the Pacific this grass was also valued once in Japan as a cereal to make a porridge, dumplings or macaroni. It is still cultivated as a food in some regions

of sub-Saharan Africa, and in some parts of India (where it is also grown for forage). Today in many parts of Asia (as well as in California in the United States) however it is viewed as a 'weed' if found growing amongst rice (*Oryza*).

In Egypt cockspur has been encouraged as ground cover in boggy areas that are being reclaimed from the sea.

While in North America sportsmen are well familiar with it in the areas haunted by upland game-birds. The latter find the hard grain particularly attractive – as do musk-rats, duck and songbirds. The plant when fresh also provides animal feed there.

Cockspur can be seen in dried flower arrangements (but the heads need to have been picked immediately they develop).

Medicinally, the plant has been used by herbalists in North America to stem bleeding and to treat diseases of the spleen.