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Echinochloa polystachya

[Synonyms : *Echinochloa polystachya* var. *spectabilis*, *Echinochloa spectabilis*, *Oplismenus polystachyus*, *Panicum polystachyum*, *Panicum spectabile*]

ALEMAN GRASS is a semi-aquatic perennial grass. Native to the Americas it has nodding flower spikelets.

It is also known as Creeping river grass.

Polystachya is derived from Greek *poly-* (many) and *stachyo-* (spike, ear of corn) components meaning ‘with many spikes’.

In the Amazonian region in South America the grass has long provided forage for water buffalo.

Apparently aleman grass has only been introduced to Australia in the closing years of the 20th Century but it is already viewed there with some trepidation as authorities recognize that it could prove to be even more invasive than the smaller para grass (*Brachiaria mutica*).