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Glyceria maxima

[Synonyms : *Catabrosa hydrophila*, *Festuca aquatica*, *Glyceria altissima*, *Glyceria aquatica*, *Glyceria spectabilis*, *Heleochloa aquatica*, *Molinia maxima*, *Panicularia aquatica*, *Poa aquatica*]

REED SWEET-GRASS is a deciduous aquatic grass. Native to temperate Asia and temperate Europe, it has sometimes yellow- or purple-tinged, green flower spikelets.

It is also known as *Glycérie aquatique* (French), Great water grass, *Jättegröe* (Swedish), *Kasevia* (Swedish), *Manna mielec* (Polish), *Mannik vod'anoj* (Russian), *Perwellt* (Welsh), Reed, Reed-grass, Reed manna grass, Reed meadow-grass, *Steblovka vodná* (Slovak), Sweet hay, *Wasserschwaden* (German), and *Zblochan vodní* (Czech).

Maxima is derived from Latin *magnus* (great, large) meaning 'largest'.

This plant provides not only nutritious fodder much enjoyed by cattle and horses but also a rooting system which has been found helpful in countering erosion (particularly on riverbanks).

As an introduced plant however it can be less benign. In Australia especially it is creating concern where it has escaped from pastures or ornamental cultivation. Unsupervised it is choking river, creek and pond margins in some areas.