

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Molinia caerulea*

[Synonyms : *Aira caerulea*, *Amblytes caerulea*, *Cynodon caeruleus*, *Enodium caeruleum*, *Festuca caerulea*, *Melica caerulea*]

**PURPLE MOOR GRASS** is a perennial grass. Native to north-western Africa, to parts of Asia and to Europe (including Britain), it has small, purple to olive-green spikelets.

It is also known as *Benthalm* (German), *Besenried* (German), *Bezkoleneč belasý* (Slovak), *Bezkoleneč modrý* (Czech), *Blåtåtel* (Swedish), *Blaues Pfeifengras* (German), Blue bent grass, *Gewöhnliches Pfeifengras* (German), *Glaswellt y Bwla* (Welsh), Indian grass, Lavender grass, *Molinie bleue* (French), *Molinio blua* (Esperanto), *Molinija golubaja* (Russian), Moor grass, *Sectin* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), *Siniheinä* (Finnish), and *Trzeslica modra* (Polish).

*Caerulea* is Latin (blue) meaning ‘dark blue or sky blue’.

Cattle and sheep eat only the young leaves but before these get anywhere near them there are many farmers for whom the value of purple moor grass as a fodder is severely undermined by welfare concerns. It can host the ergot fungus (*Claviceps purpurea*) most often associated with rye (*Secale cereale*) and thus raises the spectre of ergotism which was once a scourge for so many Europeans.

Purple moor grass is cultivated as an ornamental plant.