

Paspalum distichum

[Synonyms : *Anastrophus paspaloides*, *Digitaria disticha*, *Digitaria foliosa*, *Digitaria paspaloides*, *Digitaria tristachya*, *Dimorphostachys oaxacensis*, *Milium distichum*, *Milium paspalodes*, *Panicum digitarioides*, *Panicum fernandezianum*, *Panicum paspaliforme*, *Panicum polyrrhizum*, *Panicum schaffneri*, *Paspalum brachiatum*, *Paspalum bracteatum*, *Paspalum chepica*, *Paspalum didactylum*, *Paspalum digitaria*, *Paspalum digitaria* var. *anpinense*, *Paspalum digitaria* var. *digitaria*, *Paspalum digitaria* var. *indutum*, *Paspalum digitaria* var. *littorale*, *Paspalum digitaria* var. *longirepens*, *Paspalum digitaria* var. *microstachyum*, *Paspalum digitaria* var. *nanum*, *Paspalum digitaria* subsp. *paspalodes*, *Paspalum digitaria* var. *tristachyum*, *Paspalum digitaria* var. *vaginatum*, *Paspalum distichum* subsp. *digitaria*, *Paspalum distichum* var. *indutum*, *Paspalum elliottii*, *Paspalum fernandezianum*, *Paspalum foliosum*, *Paspalum gayanum*, *Paspalum inflatum*, *Paspalum kleinianum*, *Paspalum littorale*, *Paspalum michauxianum*, *Paspalum oaxacense*, *Paspalum paspaloides*, *Paspalum paspaloides* var. *paspaloides*, *Paspalum paucispicatum*, *Paspalum reimarioides*, *Paspalum reptans*, *Paspalum schaffneri*, *Paspalum squamatum*, *Paspalum tristachyum*, *Paspalum vaginatum*, *Paspalum vaginatum* var. *longipes*, *Paspalum vaginatum* var. *nanum*, *Paspalum vaginatum* var. *pubescens*, *Paspalum vaginatum* var. *reimarioides*, *Sanguinaria vaginata*]

WATER FINGER-GRASS is a perennial grass. Native to warm South American coasts it has tiny green-tinged, yellow spikelets.

It is also known as Couch paspalum, Creeping perennial joint grass, Dallis grass, Ditch grass, Eternity grass, Ginger grass, *Gramma bobo* (Peruvian), *Gramma colorada* (Spanish), *Gramma de agua* (Spanish), *Gramma de Joanópolis* (Portuguese), *Gramma de mar* (Cuban), *Gramma salada* (Peruvian), *Gramilla blanca* (Spanish), *Graminhao* (Portuguese), *Hierba de zanjas* (Spanish), Joint grass, *Kishuu suzume no hie* (Japanese), *Knotgras* (German), *Knotgrass*, *Kweek Paspalum* (Afrikaans), *Liang er cao* (Chinese), Mercer grass, *Paspalo distico* (Italian), *Paspalum*, *Pasto dulce* (Spanish), Salt jointgrass, Salt-water couch, Seashore paspalum, Seaside millet, *Shuang sui que bai* (Chinese), Silt grass, Thompson grass, Turfgrass, *Tvillinghirs* (Swedish), and Water couch grass.

It has shown itself to be invasive in some wetlands.

Distichum is derived from Greek *di-* (two, twice) and *-stichos* (rank, row) components meaning 'in two rows'.

Although records indicate the grass has been used as general cattle fodder in hilly parts of India it is considered by some to be suitable for forage (as for instance in Arizona in the United States) but not for hay.

In marshland areas ducks feed on this grass.

Water finger-grass, with its long creeping underground stems, has been cultivated in saltmarshes and on beaches to help bind the sand and stabilize the soil.