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*Pennisetum glaucum*

[Synonyms : *Alopecurus typhoides*, *Chaetochloa glauca*, *Chaetochloa lutescens*, *Holcus spicatus*, *Panicum americanum*, *Panicum glaucum*, *Penicillaria arabica*, *Penicillaria mosambicensis*, *Pennisetum americanum*, *Pennisetum americanum* subsp. *spicatum*, *Pennisetum americanum* subsp. *typhoideum*, *Pennisetum cylindricum*, *Pennisetum spicatum*, *Pennisetum typhoides*, *Pennisetum typhoideum*, *Setaria glauca*, *Setaria lutescens*]

**PEARL MILLET** is a cultivated annual grass. Originating in tropical Africa it has with dark brown bulrush-like spikes.

It is also known as African millet, *Babala* (African), Babala millet, *Bajra* (Bengali, Hindi, Punjabi), Bulrush millet, Cat-tailed millet, *Dukhn* (Arabic), *Emeye* (Yoruba), Foxtail grass, *Gero* (Hausa), Gero-corn, Gero millet, *Hirse* (German), Indian millet, *Jadoori* (Fulani), *Kambu* (Tamil), *Manna* (Afrikaans), *Mattari* (Malayalam), Millet (English, French), *Mwere* (Kikuyu), *Nali* (Sanskrit), *Pedda-gantee* (Telugu), *Peniset americký* (Slovak), *Periamanjai-cholum* (Tamil), *Perlhirse* (German), Pigeon grass, *Pollu* (Singhalese), Pull-paddy, *Rohrkolbenhirse* (German), *Sazza* (Telugu), Spiked millet, *Unyaluthi* (Zulu), Yellow bristle grass, and *Zeegroene naalbaar* (Dutch).

*Glaucum* is derived from Latin *glaucus* (bluish-grey, greenish-grey) meaning ‘covered with a fine, powdery whitish coating’.

Pearl millet has been cultivated for thousands of years. Today for many Asian and African countries pearl millet is a staple food, and some African tribes still use the de-husked grains to make a form of milk porridge (as they did in ancient Rome). It is also used as a commercial ingredient by the beer industry.

The bulrush-like heads provide a convenient perch for feasting birds that are particularly partial to this grain.

In modern industrial countries pearl millet is primarily grown as pasture or for fodder.

Pearl millet twigs are depicted in the shield of the coat of arms of the West African Republic of Niger.

In North America some of the Navajo Indian tribe included it in their medicine cupboard and rubbed pearl millet grain on facial pimples.