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Poa compressa

[Synonyms : *Panicum compressum*, *Poa compressa* fo. *depauperata*, *Poa compressa* var. *sylvestris*, *Poa langeana*]

COMPRESSED MEADOWGRASS is a perennial grass. Native to Europe (including Britain) and to south-western Asia, it has green to purple flower spikelets.

It is also known as *Berggröe* (Swedish), Bluegrass, Canada bluegrass, *Dvorezna latovka* (Croatian), English bluegrass, *Fienarola compressa* (Italian), *Flaches Rispengras* (German), *Fladstrået rapgræs* (Danish), Flat meadowgrass, *Flatrapp* (Norwegian), Flat-stemmed grass, Flattened bluegrass, Flattened meadowgrass, Flattened poa, *Gramigna compressa* (Italian), *Gweunwellt Cywasg* (Welsh), *Jia na da mei ji* (Chinese), *Jia na da zao shu he* (Chinese), *Kanadisk rapgræs* (Danish), *Ko ichigo tsunagi* (Japanese), *Lapik nurmikas* (Estonian), *Laposszárú perje* (Hungarian), *Lipnice smáčkutá* (Czech), *Litteänurmikka* (Finnish), *Littunurmikka* (Finnish), *Mjatlik spljusnutyj* (Russian), *Pâturin comprimé* (French), *Platbeemdgras* (Dutch), *Plattes Rispengras* (German), *Platthalmrispe* (German), *Platthalm-Rispengras* (German), *Poa chata* (Spanish), *Poa comprimida* (Spanish), *Vassi salkim otu* (Turkish), Virginia bluegrass, *Wiechlina splaczona* (Polish), *Wiechlina splaszczona* (Polish), Wiregrass, and *Zusammengedruecktes Rispengras* (German).

The grass is viewed as an invasive weed in Wisconsin (Canada).

Compressa means ‘flattened (usually laterally) or compressed’.

In North America this grass has been grown as pasture and harvested as fodder for cattle and sheep, but especially horses.

Compressed meadowgrass provides food (the leaves and/or seeds) for many birds and animals among them various songbirds, wild turkey, moose, elk and some deer and rabbits – as well as rodents, grasshoppers and other insects.

It has been cultivated by environmentalists on steep slopes to bind soil and on mine and gravel pit reclamation projects, as well as along roadsides. It has served as a lawn grass too and has been sown in recreational areas.