

Poa pratensis

[Synonyms : *Panicum pratense*, *Phalaris japonica*, *Poa agassizensis*, *Poa alpigena*, *Poa anceps* var. *breviculmis*, *Poa angustifolia*, *Poa angustifolia* subsp. *costata*, *Poa angustifolia* var. *pratensis*, *Poa angustiglumis*, *Poa articulata*, *Poa attica*, *Poa bidentata*, *Poa boliviensis*, *Poa bourgeaei*, *Poa costata*, *Poa garanica*, *Poa gelida*, *Poa ianthoides*, *Poa intermedia*, *Poa luzoniensis*, *Poa maydelii*, *Poa oligeria*, *Poa peckii*, *Poa phoenicea*, *Poa pinegensis*, *Poa pratensis* subsp. *agassizensis*, *Poa pratensis* var. *alpigena*, *Poa pratensis* var. *angustifolia*, *Poa pratensis* subsp. *attica*, *Poa pratensis* var. *colpodea*, *Poa pratensis* var. *costata*, *Poa pratensis* var. *domestica*, *Poa pratensis* var. *gelida*, *Poa pratensis* var. *iantha*, *Poa pratensis* var. *laxiflora*, *Poa pratensis* var. *macounii*, *Poa pratensis* var. *stricta*, *Poa pratensis* var. *subglabriflora*, *Poa pratensis* var. *urjancaica*, *Poa pratensis* var. *vivipara*, *Poa pseudopratensis*, *Poa rigens*, *Poa serotina*, *Poa subcaerulea*, *Poa subglabriflora*, *Poa turfosa*, *Poa urjancaica*, *Poa viridis*]

SMOOTH MEADOWGRASS is a deciduous perennial grass. Native to Eurasia, the Mediterranean and North Africa, it has purplish, green or greyish flower spikelets. It is also known as *Aasnurmikas* (Estonian), *Ängsgröe* (Swedish), *Cao di zao shu he* (Chinese), *Capim do campo* (Portuguese), *Çayir salkim otu* (Turkish), Common meadow beauty, Common meadowgrass, Common speargrass, *Engrapgræs* (Danish), *Engrapp* (Norwegian), *Erva de febra* (Portuguese), *Fienarola dei prati* (Italian), *Gramma de prados* (Spanish), *Gramigna dei prati* (Italian), Green meadowgrass, *Gweunwellt Llyfn* (Welsh), *Herbe bleue du Kentucky* (French), *Hèrbe d'pré* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), June grass, *Kentucky blougras* (Afrikaans), Kentucky bluegrass, *Lipnica lúčna* (Slovak), *Lipnice luční* (Czech), Meadowgrass, *Mjatlík lugovoj* (Russian), *Naga hagusa* (Japanese), *Niittynurmikka* (Finnish), *Pâturin des prés* (French), *Poa común* (Spanish), *Poa de los prados* (Spanish), *Réti perje* (Hungarian), Smooth-stalked meadowgrass, Spear grass, *Veldbeemdgras* (Dutch), *Wiechlina lakowa* (Czech), *Wiechlina równoplewa* (Polish), *Wiesen-Rispengras* (German), *Wyklina równoplewa* (Polish), and *Zacate poa* (Spanish).

In some parts of North America smooth meadowgrass is viewed as an invasive weed.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

Pratensis is derived from Latin *pratium* (meadow) meaning ‘of or from meadows’.

The European mainland and North America view smooth meadowgrass as not only an important grass for lawns and meadows (including golf courses and ski slopes) but also nutritious forage (particularly for sheep and cattle) and to a much lesser extent as a source of hay. In Britain however it is held to be most suitable for sports fields, banks and roadsides.

It is this grass with its greyish-green or dark green leaves that accounts for the state of Kentucky in the United States being known as the ‘Bluegrass State’.

Smooth meadowgrass also provides food for a broad range of wildlife. Deer and elk feed on it and the leaves and seeds are eaten by many birds and small animals, including grouse and wild turkey, and rabbits, squirrels and mice. It also offers cover for a variety of birds (sometimes for nesting duck, grouse, or pheasant) as well as small animals.