

# Orchardgrass

*Dactylis glomerata* L.

## Description

Orchardgrass has tall, erect, and hairless stems growing up to 3 feet high from short rhizomes. Leaves are grayish-green,  $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch wide, and flat or folded with a prominent rough-textured midrib and rough margins.

The inflorescence is a panicle that is 1–8 inches long, with the lower 2–3 branches elongate and upper branches short and appressed. Spikelets are tufted panicles of one-sided clusters at the ends of long, stiff, rough branches.

## Similar Species

Reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea* L., included in this book) has wider leaves and a more narrow and pointed inflorescence and is capable of growing in wetter habitats than orchard grass.

## Management

Orchardgrass tolerates close mowing and may become a problem in lawns. Since its rootstocks do not spread, pulling out young plants can be an effective control method for small infestations. Generally, mechanical methods will not control orchard grass because it has evolved under cultivation. In some cases, repeated mowing may stimulate tillering. Numerous herbicides provide effective control for orchard grass but are not specific to it.

## Notes

The scientific name of this plant is improbably featured as an album name for the British metal band Candlemass,

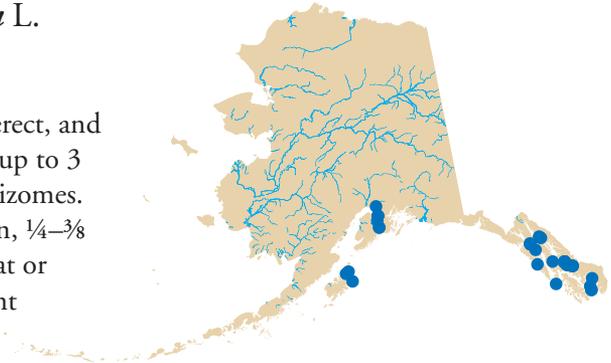


Photo by Paul L. Redfearn, Jr.

# Family: Poaceae

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released in the UK in 1998. This plant is native to Europe and has been in cultivation in the United States for over 200 years. It is a folk remedy for tumors and kidney and bladder ailments.



*KULAK photo by Paul Busselen*



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