

Cymbopogon citratus

Scientific classification

Kingdom : Plantae
Clade : Angiosperms
Clade : Monocots
Order : Poales
Family : Poaceae
Subfamily : Panicoideae
Tribe : Andropogoneae
Genus : *Cymbopogon*
Species : *C. schoenanthus*



Cymbopogon citratus

DESCRIPTION:

Cymbopogon citratus is native to Island Southeast Asia (Malesia). It has been introduced extensively to South Asia since precolonial times. *Cymbopogon citratus*, commonly called lemongrass, is a frost-tender clumping perennial grass that is popularly used as a lemony flavoring in Thai, Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian cooking and is widely cultivated in Southeast Asia for that purpose. It is also an outstanding ornamental grass that lends great beauty to garden areas regardless of whether its culinary uses are to be tapped. Gracefully-arching, strap-shaped linear leaves (to 3' long and to 1" wide) are light green. Leaves emit a lemony fragrance when bruised. It rarely produces flowers. Extracted plant oils have been used for many years in herbal medicines and perfumes. *Cymbopogon citratus* is a perennial, shortly rhizomatous grass. Culms tufted, robust, up to 2 m tall, 4 mm in diameter, farinose below nodes. Leaf sheaths glabrous, greenish inside; leaf blades glaucous, 30-90 × 0.5-2 cm, both surfaces scabrid, base gradually narrowed, apex long acuminate; ligule 1 mm.

MEDICINAL USES:

The plant is used as a fragrance and flavoring agent and in folk medicine as an antispasmodic, hypotensive, anticonvulsant, analgesic, antiemetic, antitussive, antirheumatic, antiseptic and treatment for nervous and gastrointestinal disorders and fevers.