

Phalaris arundinacea

Scientific classification

Kingdom	: Plantae
Clade	: Angiosperms
Clade	: Monocots
Order	: Poales
Family	: Poaceae
Subfamily	: Pooideae
Genus	: <u><i>Phalaris</i></u>
Species	: <i>P. arundinacea</i>



P. arundinacea

Description

The stems can reach 2 meters (6.6 ft) in height. The leaf blades are usually green, but may be variegated. The panicles are up to 30 centimeters long. The spikelets are light green, often streaked with darker green or purple. This is a perennial grass which spreads underground by its thick rhizomes.

Phalaris arundinacea, or **reed canary grass**, is a tall, perennial bunchgrass that commonly forms extensive single-species stands along the margins of lakes and streams and in wet open areas, with a wide distribution in Europe, Asia, northern Africa and North America. Other common names for the plant include **gardener's-garters** in English,

Uses

A number of cultivars of *P. arundinacea* have been selected for use as ornamental plants, including variegated (striped) cultivars – sometimes called **ribbon grass** – such as 'Castor' and 'Feesey'. The latter has a pink tinge to the leaves. When grown, although drought-tolerant, it likes abundant water and can even be grown as an aquatic plant.

The grass can also easily be turned into bricks or pellets for burning in biomass power stations. Furthermore, it provides fibers which find use in pulp and papermaking processes.