

# ORCHARD GRASS

*Dactylis glomerata*

- FAMILY:** Gramineae
- TRIBE:** Festuceae
- GENUS:** Dactylis
- SPECIES:** glomerata
- COMMON NAMES:** Orchard Grass, Cocksfoot, Dew Grass, Hard Grass
- POLLEN GRAINS:** Spheroidal to ellipsoidal. 28.5 to 38.8 microns in diameter.
- POLLINATING PERIOD:** May and June are peak months with small amounts of pollen produced through the first half of summer. Season earlier in regions of mild climate.
- DISTRIBUTION:** Found throughout the United States except in arid regions. Not common in the gulf states.
- ALLERGIC IMPORTANCE:** Of prime importance in areas of abundance.

*Orchard Grass is a rather coarse perennial 2 to 4 feet tall. The panicle, 2 to 10 inches long, has few and rather stiff branches which are spreading or ascending at flowering and appressed at maturity. The blades are flat, the culms (grass stems) typically grow in large clumps.*

*This grass is commonly cultivated as a meadow and pasture grass, and is used as ground cover in orchards. It is also common in fields and waste places, preferring a moist condition.*



*Dactylis glomerata*  
(Orchard Grass)