

SWEET VERNALGRASS

Anthoxanthum odoratum

REDTOP

Agrostis alba

FAMILY:	Gramineae	
TRIBE:	Phalarideae	Agrostideae
GENUS:	Anthoxanthum	Agrostis
SPECIES:	odoratum	alba
COMMON NAMES:	Sweet Vernalgrass	Redtop Herd's Grass Creeping Bent Grass
POLLEN GRAINS:	Spheroidal 37 to 45 microns in diameter. Exine faintly granular. Germ pore irregular in shape 4 to 6.3 microns in diameter. Operculum small and irregular.	Spheroidal 26 to 31 microns in diameter. Germ pores nearly circular 2.3 to 4.6 microns in diameter. Operculum generally small and irregular. Exine finely granular.
POLLINATING PERIOD:	May and June. April into July in milder areas.	June through mid-August, mostly June and July. As early as April in Pacific Coast states.
DISTRIBUTION:	In the United States east of the Mississippi River and northern California, Oregon, and Washington.	Throughout the United States except for the warmest areas.
ALLERGIC IMPORTANCE:	Important throughout much of its range.	One of the most important grasses.

Sweet Vernalgrass is a slender, tufted perennial grass. It grows from one to three feet tall. Leaf blades are 1/8 to 3/8 inches wide. The heads are narrow and elongated from 1 to 4 inches long.

This grass is commonly found in meadows, pastures, and waste places. It is sometimes seeded in meadow mixtures, more for its fragrance than forage value.

Redtop is a perennial grass having a creeping rootstock. Usually erect, it grows from 2 to 5 feet tall with pyramidal oblong heads up to 12 inches long. Spikelets of the head are usually reddish.

Redtop is widely cultivated for lawns, pastures, and meadows and is a common escape in cooler regions. It is considered a fairly heavy pollinator.



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