

Phalaris arundinacea

Reed canary grass

Introduction

The genus *Phalaris* contains 10 species that occur in the temperate regions of the Northern hemisphere, primarily in Europe and North America. Only one species and one variety has been recorded in China^[162].

Species of *Phalaris* in China

Phalaris arundinacea L.

Taxonomy

Order: Graminales

Suborder: Gramineae

Family: Gramineae (Poaceae)

Subfamily: Pooideae

Tribe: Phalarideae Kunth

Genus: *Phalaris* L.

Species: *Phalaris arundinacea* L.

Description

Phalaris arundinacea is a rhizomatous perennial grass. The 6-8 noded culm grows solitarily or rarely in a clump about 60-140 cm tall. The glabrous leaf



sheath is shorter than the internode. The ligule is 2-3mm long and membranous. Leaves are flat, slightly coarse when young, 6-30 cm long and 1-1.8 cm wide. Panicle is narrowly dense and 8-15 cm high, with erect branches. The spikelets, are 4-5 mm long and glabrous or slightly hairy. On the glume's keel is a narrow wing. The infertile lemma is broadly lanceolate, 3-4 mm long and pubescent; while the two degenerated fertile lemmata are linear and pubescent. The boat-shaped palea has one keel along which run pilose hairs. The anther is 2-2.5 mm long. The flowers and fruit appear in June through August^[162].

Habitat

P. arundinacea occurs in forests and moist grasslands at elevations of 75-3200 m^[162].

Distribution

P. arundinacea has been reported from Gansu, Hebei, Hunan, Heilongjiang,

Inner Mongolia, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Liaoning, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi, Sichuan and Zhejiang provinces^[23, 30, 53, 77, 126, 142, 162].

Economic Importance

The young plants of *P. arundinacea* are favorite forage of poultry. The culms can be used for papermaking^[162].

Related Species

P. arundinacea var. *picta* L. can be distinguished from *Phalaris arundinacea* var. *arundinacea* by its flat leaf and the white stripe embossed in the white leaf^[162].

Natural Enemies of *Phalaris*

One fungal species has been found on the single member of the genus *Phalaris*.

Fungi

Phylum	Family	Species	H. R.	Ref.
Basidiomycota	Pucciniaceae	<i>Puccinia sessilis</i> W.G. Schneid.	p	[26]