

**Common Name:** Orchard grass

**Scientific Name:** *Dactylis glomerata* L.

**Family:** Grass family (Poaceae)

**Similar Species:** Reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) has wider leaves and a more narrow pointed inflorescence and grows in wetter habitats than orchard grass.

**Description:** Grass with erect tall hairless stems to three feet tall from short rhizomes. Leaves grayish green 1/4-3/8 inch wide, flat or folded with a prominent scabrous midrib and scabrous margins. Inflorescence: 3-20 cm panicle, lower 2-3 branches elongate, upper branches short and appressed. Spikelets **tufted panicles of one-sided clusters at the ends of long stiff rough branches.**

**Life History:** Grows in dense clumps or tufts or rarely with short rhizomes, reproduces from seeds and tillers.

**Where Found:** Throughout southeast Alaska in and around populated areas.

**Habitat:** Flourishes in moist sites. Found in pastures and along trails and roadsides.

**Impacts:** Widespread throughout North America. An aggressive weed of farms and orchards. Invasive in wetlands. Often cultivated for forage.

**Fun Facts:** The scientific name of this plant is improbably featured as an album name for the British metal band Candlemass, released in the UK in 1998

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