

Canary grass: *Phalaris* spp.

Non-native



Canary grass is a tall, perennial grass that commonly forms extensive stands along lakes and streams, as well as in wet open areas. It is widely distributed throughout North America as well as Europe, Asia and northern Africa. Reed canary grass is sometimes planted as a hay or as a forage crop for grazing animals, but it can also be an invasive species, suppressing native vegetation and plant diversity in wetlands. The grass propagates by seed and rhizome so it is difficult to control or eradicate.

Research has suggested that because Reed canary grass grows well on poor soils and in contaminated sites it can be planted to improve soil quality. This grass can also be turned into bricks or pellets for burning in biomass power stations and its fibers can be used in the pulp and papermaking processes.

