

GRASS FAMILY

Poaceae (Gramineae)



Dallis Grass

Grasses are the most abundant and widespread plants in California. Grasses cover almost one-third of the area of the earth. They were abundant in prehistoric days, and they still remain the most important plant family of the vegetable kingdom. Cereals such as wheat, oats, barley, rye, corn and rice are grasses. So are many meadow, pasture and range plants. Grasses are a great asset in water and soil conservation, holding the soil with a strong network of roots and helping to prevent water runoff.

Grasses are fleshy plants with hollow stems. The stem tube is closed at intervals; the point of closure, frequently referred to as a joint, is more properly called a node. Parallel veined leaves appear alternately on opposite sides of the stem. The flowers are minute, one in each bract of each seed head.

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