

Annual canary grass (*Phalaris canariensis*)

Family name: Grass (Poaceae)

Native range: Europe

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

General description:

- Annual grass to 2'-6.5' tall
- Stem round, hairless
- Lacking a strong, rhizomatous root system
- Ligule (papery sheath at the base of leaf) 0.25" long, round at apex
- Formerly grown for birdseed



Fruit:

- Shiny, yellow to brown at maturity



Habitat:

- Meadows, cultivated soils, roadsides
- Prefers dry ground



A large, papery sheath that envelops annual canary grass seed

Commercial

availability: Not found

Look-alikes:

Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinaceae*)

- Perennial grass with extensive rhizomes (difficult to pull)
- A native species, but improved cultivars are very aggressive
- Blooms June-early July
- Invades moist to wet meadows, marshes, riparian areas and roadsides
- Flowers longer and slimmer, 2.75"-10" long



Reed canary grass has taller, narrower flowers



Prominent ligule where the leaf joins the stem

Leaves:

- Alternate, 3.5"-10" long, 0.25"-0.75" wide
- Coarsely textured
- Gradually tapering
- Bluish-green

Flowers:

- Flowers oval, 0.5"-1.5" long
- Green or purplish, turning tan as seed matures
- Blooms July-August



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