

Echinochloa colona

Recognize the problem

Family: Poaceae (grass family).

Common names: Jungle rice, jungle ricegrass, pigeon millet, short millet, bird's rice, southern cockspur, swamp grass, barnyardgrass, little barnyardgrass, millet rice, swamp grass, corn panic grass, Deccan grass.

Thai: หญ้าหนวดข้าว Yan ok se chompu (general), หญ้าข้าวหนวด Ya khao nok (Suphan Buri, Kanchanaburi), หญ้าก้นแก Ya kap kae (Bangkok), หญ้าหนวด Ya nok khao (Nakhon Ratchasima), หญ้าปล้องนก Ya plong nok (Chiang Mai); **Vietnamese:** Cỏ lồng vực cạn, cỏ nước mặn; **Burmese:** Wun-be-sa-myet.

Annual grass, with fibrous, rather shallow roots; culms stout, erect with spreading open growth; often branching from base and rooting from lower nodes, 20-60 cm tall; propagation mainly by seed, with ability to root at nodes that come in contact with soil, giving rise to independent plants.

Leaves: Light green, sometimes with transverse purple bands, flat, smooth, 4-10 cm long, 3-8 mm wide, margins occasionally rough, tip pointed; no ligule.

Inflorescence: Erect or nodding, green or purple tinged, 5-15 cm long, sometimes branched; racemes arranged in 4-rows, numerous, 2-4 cm long, spreading, ascending, sometimes branched, the lower ones up to 1 cm apart, the upper ones crowded; no awns gives less spikey appearance than *E. crus-galli* (Thai: หญ้าข้าวหนวด Ya khao nok; Vietnamese: cỏ lồng vực nước; Burmese: Myet-thee).

Background

Origin: Probably native to tropical and subtropical Asia.

Introduction: Movement into uninfected areas as fodder and forage, or as a contaminant of crop seed.

Habitat: Cosmopolitan weed of tropical areas, likes swampy areas, but grows in wet soil to dry land; prefers light shade.

Spread: Primarily by seeds spread by wind, irrigation water or as a contaminant in soil, seed crops, and agricultural machinery.

Invades: Crops, pasture and grasslands, disturbed land, waterways, ditches, swamps, edges of lakes and wetlands.

Impact: Jungle rice can be a very serious weed in both moist and dry land affecting crops such as rice, maize, cotton, beans and vegetables fields. Its similar habit and appearance make it difficult to distinguish in rice when young. Crop losses can be substantial, with reported losses in dry seeded rice of up to 83%, depending on weed density. The weed is an important secondary host of some crops pests, providing food source during fallow periods. It is also a highly palatable fodder.

E. colona inflorescence. (Photo by © Siriporn Zungsontiporn)



Leaves showing transverse purple bands. (Photo by © Tomas Marquez/DuPont)



Scientific name(s) > *Echinochloa colona* (Synonym: *Panicum colonum*)

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: All Countries



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