

# Dr. Nancy BECKER

EARS, NOSE & THROAT • ALLERGY THERAPY • FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY

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## Italian Ryegrass

**Family:** Gramineae  
**Tribe:** Hordeae  
**Genus:** Lolium  
**Species:** multiflorum

**Common Names:** Italian ryegrass  
Ryegrass  
Australian Ryegrass  
Winter Grass

**Pollen Grains:** Spheroidal or ovoidal 37.5 microns in diameter. Circular germ pore 2.8 to 5 microns in diameter at the large end of grain. Operculum small; exine faintly granular.

**Pollinating Period:** June to August or as early as April in warmer areas.

**Distribution:** Found throughout the United States except in the far south. Rarely found south of Virginia and California. Especially abundant on the Pacific coast.

### **Allergic**

**Importance:** Important to areas of abundance.

Italian Ryegrass is a short lived perennial, usually erect and 1 to 3 ½ feet tall. The inflorescence is a spike, somewhat curved, slender, and flattened. The blades are flat, narrow, and elongated. The foliage is glossy.

This species is similar in distribution and appearance to Perennial Ryegrass. It differs from Perennial Ryegrass in being generally more robust and having awns on the spikelets.

Italian Ryegrass is commonly found along roadsides, in meadows, and waste places.

## Timothy

**Family:** Gramineae  
**Tribe:** Agrostideae  
**Genus:** Phleum  
**Species:** pratense

**Common Names:** Timothy  
Herd's Grass

**Pollen Grains:** Spheroidal 32 to 36.5 microns in diameter. Germ pore circular or slightly irregular 1.7 to 2.8 microns in diameter. Operculum very irregular and sometimes fragmentary; exine fine granular.

**Pollinating Period:** June and July

**Distribution:** Found throughout the United States except in arid regions.

**Allergic Importance:** Of prime importance in areas of abundance.

Timothy is a short-lived perennial 1 ½ to 4 feet tall. Erect culms arise from a bulblike base forming large clumps. Blades are elongated and mostly flat. The spikelets are crowded to form a cylindrical panicle 1 ½ to 5 inches long.

Timothy is the most common and important pasture and hay grass of the humid areas of the northern United States. It has escaped to become common along roadsides and in fields and waste places.

## **Johnson Grass**

Johnson grass is a tall, coarse grass with stout rhizomes. It grows in dense clumps or nearly solid stands and can reach 8 feet in height. Leaves are smooth, 6-20 inches long, and have a white mid vein. Stems are pink to rusty red near the base. Panicles are large, loosely branched, purplish, and hairy. Spikelets occur in pairs or threes, and each has a conspicuous awn. Seeds are reddish-brown and nearly 1/8 inch long.

This species occurs in crop fields, pastures, abandoned fields, forest edges, and along stream banks. It thrives in open, disturbed, rich, bottom ground, particularly in cultivated fields. Johnson grass is a very aggressive, perennial grass. It emerges late in spring and forms seeds by July 1<sup>st</sup>.