



Water finger grass

(*Paspalum distichum*)

Originated in South America. It first appeared at the end of the 1800s in the Mediterranean region (Montpellier, 1886), then spread to Western France, along the Loire River and most recently to the Bretagne region.

Description

- A perennial grass forming dense groups of plants
- Stems range in length from 20 centimetres to 1 metre:
 - they first run along the ground, then stand upright, are round and hollow, with hairy, bulging internodes
 - they produce numerous stolons that grow rapidly (up to 25 to 35 centimetres per week)
- Long, straight leaves:
 - length 5 to 15 cm, width 0.2 to 0.7 cm
 - membranous ligule, ciliated with white hairs 2 to 3 mm long
- The inflorescence is made up of two, V-shaped stems, from 2 to 7 centimetres in length:
 - each stem has two rows of seeds
 - black stigmates and stamens are clearly visible
 - exclusively on the emergent part of the plant
- Strong root system producing multiple rhizomes

Ecology and reproduction

- The species can develop on different types of wetlands (fresh water to brackish):
 - banks of rivers and ponds/lakes, swards and wet meadows, marshes
 - cropland (rice paddies, irrigated maize fields), along roadsides
- Sexual reproduction and dissemination of the fruit by water
- Vegetative multiplication via fragmented stolons and rhizomes

Documentation

- Hudin S., Vahrameev P. (coord.) 2010. Guide d'identification des plantes exotiques envahissant les milieux aquatiques et les berges du bassin Loire-Bretagne. Fédération des conservatoires d'espaces naturels, 45 pp.
- Fried G. 2012. Guide des plantes invasives. Belin, Paris, 272 pp

Author: Emmanuelle Sarat, IUCN French committee

Classification	
Order	Cyperales
Family	Poaceae
Genus	<i>Paspalum</i>
Species	<i>P. distichum</i> (Linnaeus, 1760)



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