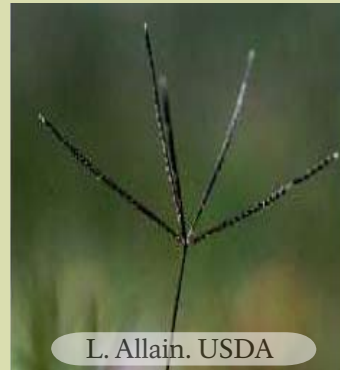


KEY
CHARACTERISTICS

- growth** Rhizomatous mat-forming perennial grass, with long, slender, creeping rhizomes and stolons. Flowers May - November
- Inflorescence** Flowering stems are upright and bear a terminal group of 3 to 7 spike like branches, originating in a single whorl on the ends of stems (finger like arrangement).
- spikelet** Individual spikes are 1 to 2 inches long and bear 2 rows of **sessile** spikelets along one side of a somewhat flattened rachis.
- stems** Decumbent stems typically have papery leaf sheaths at each node. They spread laterally over the soil surface, rooting freely at lower nodes.
- leaves** Leaves are generally smooth, with a conspicuous ring of white hairs at the junction of blade and sheath.

C. dactylon is commonly used as a lawn grass. →



flower color

Elevation:

Below 6000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:

Desertlands, non-riparian wetlands, riparian & woodlands.

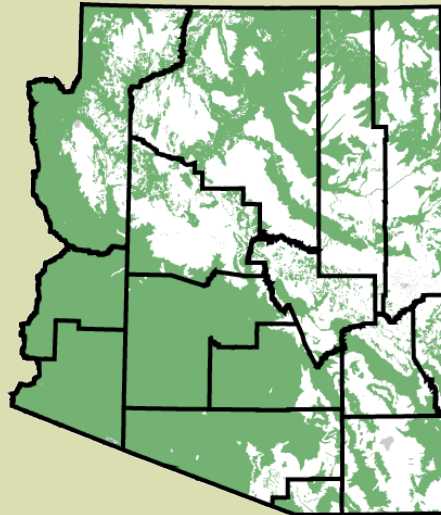
ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

In the southwestern United States, it occurs in riparian areas and in grasslands adjacent to streams and marshes.

Most common in the subtropical regions from S. California east to the Gulf Coast and southeastern states.

It is a frequently encountered understory grass in velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*) bosques. A mixed honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa* var. *glandulosa*)-saltcedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*)-Bermuda grass association has replaced some native associations in the Rio Grande floodplain in Big Bend National Park, Texas.

SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.

Bermudagrass is sometimes confused with large crabgrass (*Digitaria sanguinalis* (L.) Scop.) because of a superficial resemblance between inflorescences, and both have prostrate spreading stems that may root at nodes.

Crabgrass spikelets are attached to the rachis by an obvious short pedicel, bermuda grass spikelets are not.



F & K Starr. USGS