PLANT FACT SHEET

Anthoxanthum odoratum L.

GENUS *Anthoxanthum* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Sweet vernal grass, Grass tea

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - tea, Seeds, Cereal

The dried leaves are used as a substitute for tea.
The leaves are also used for flavouring.

DESCRIPTION

A grass which keeps growing from year to year and grows in tufts. It grows 10-100 cm high. It only has a few hairs. The flower head is narrowly oval. It is 2-7 cm long. This can be green to golden brown. The spikelets are flattened and crowded on short branches. They are 7-9 mm long. The plant has a sweet smell like new mown hay.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in poorly developed pasture. In China it grows on alpine steppes between 1,400-2,900 m above sea level. In Argentina it grows between sea level and 1,000 m above sea level. Tasmanian Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seed. It can also be grown by root division.

NOTES

There are about 18 Anthoxanthum species. The plant in flower can cause hay fever. Damp grass can develop a toxic compound dicoumarol.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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