Common British Grasses

Meadow foxtail (Alopecurus pratensis)



Meadow foxtail grass



Meadow foxtail grass gets its name from its long cylindrical flower head that looks like a fox's tail.

Meadow foxtail grows in dense tufts and its signature flower head is the best way to identify this grass.

Yorkshire fog (Holcus lanatus)



Yorkshire fog flowers have a purple to red tinge



When Yorkshire fog flowers mature they spread out and appear less dense

Yorkshire fog grass is a common species that grows in dense tufts of up to 1 metre tall throughout the UK.

Cocksfoot (Dactylis glomerata)



Cocksfoot grass has distinctive tufts of flowers



Cocksfoot flowers emerged from the spikelets

Cocksfoot grows in dense tussocks which can be between 20-140 centimetres tall. Its key characteristic is a flattened stem base which separates this grass from others.

Timothy (Phleum pratense)



Timothy grass ready to flower



Timothy grass flowers emerging

Timothy grass is a popular agricultural grass and is common in a lot of pet feed. Many people are allergic to its pollen. Characterised by the cylindrical flower head, Timothy grass grows in clumps that can be as tall as 1 metre.