

Echinochloa colona

Recognize the problem

Family: Poaceae (grass family).

Common name: jungle rice

Annual grass, with fibrous, rather shallow roots. Aerial stems (culms) stout, erect with spreading open growth; often branching from base and rooting from lower nodes, 20-60 cm tall. Propagation mainly by seed, with ability to root at nodes that come in contact with the soil, giving rise to independent plants.

Leaves: Light green, sometimes with transverse purple bands, flat, smooth, 4-10 cm long, 3-8 mm wide, margins occasionally rough, tip pointed. No ligule.

Inflorescence: Erect or nodding, green or purple tinged, 5-15 cm long, sometimes branched. Racemes arranged in 4-rows, numerous, 2-4 cm long, spreading, ascending, sometimes branched, the lower ones up to 1 cm apart, the upper ones crowded. No awns gives less spikey appearance than *E. crus-galli*.

Background

Origin: Probably native to tropical and subtropical Asia.

Introduction: As fodder and forage, or as contaminant of seed.

Habitat: Cosmopolitan weed of tropical areas, likes swampy areas, but grows in wet soil to dry land; prefers light shade.

Spread: Seeds spread by wind, irrigation water or as a contaminant in soil, seed crops, and on agricultural machinery.

Invades: Crops, pasture and grasslands, disturbed land, waterways, ditches, swamps, edges of lakes and in wetlands.

Impact: Jungle rice can be a very serious weed in rice, maize, cotton and beans. Its similar habit and appearance make it difficult to distinguish in rice when young. Crop losses can be substantial, with reported losses in dry seeded rice of up to 83% depending on weed density. Important secondary host for some crop pests, providing food source during fallow periods. Highly palatable fodder.

Young plant at tillering. (Photo by Tomas Marquez/DuPont-Spain)



Leaves showing transverse purple bands. (Photo by (Photo by Tomas Marquez/DuPont-Spain)



Scientific name(s) > *Echinochloa colona*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: All Countries



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