

# Paspalum conjugatum

## Sour paspalum, Hilo grass

*Paspalum conjugatum* Berguis

Family: Poaceae

**Description:** Short creeping perennial. Many runners on soil surface, stems often purplish. Leaves pale, smooth but hairy at nodes. Ligules hairy. Inflorescences consist of 2 opposite horizontal spikes (racemes) on a stalk resulting in a “T” shape. Seed round, flat, in 2 rows on each spike. A weed of many crops, orchards, and pastures in the tropics and warm temperate zones of the Pacific, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. From the Greek *paspalos*, for a millet; *conjugatum*, Latin for connected, probably for its many runners<sup>(5, 70)</sup>.

**Distribution:** Native to the New World tropics. Widespread throughout the world and Hawai‘i in mesic and wet areas. A weed of humid pastures and open areas of conservation lands. Noticed in Hilo about 1840<sup>(70)</sup>.

**Environmental impact:** Smothers herbs and tree seedlings. Unpalatable to cattle.



**Management:** Can be displaced in pastures by taller forage grasses and controlled grazing. Sensitive to glyphosate and imazapyr, both nonselective herbicides, the latter with some residual soil activity.