

Paspalum urvillei

Vaseygrass

Paspalum urvillei Steud.

Family: Poaceae

Description: Erect perennial, to 7 ft tall, sometimes branching. Lower sheaths sometimes hairy. Ligules triangular membrane, 0.2 inches long. Leaf blades usually about 2 ft long by 0.8 inches wide, hairy at base. Panicles erect, with 20 or so spikes (racemes), densely arranged. Seed round, flat. [Dallisgrass, *Paspalum dilatatum* Poir., a bunch grass, 5 ft tall, base growing close to the ground (decumbent), leaves 10 inches long by 0.5 inches wide. Sheath 6 inches long, hairy at throat, ligules triangular membrane, 0.2 inches long. Floral spikes (racemes) 3–5, 3 inches long, open. Spikelet flat. Common name after A.T. Dallis of Georgia, who cultivated it⁽²⁴⁾. Native to Uruguay or Argentina. Introduced into the mainland USA and Hawai‘i as a forage. A valuable forage, extensively distributed in the USA from New Jersey through the southern states, the southwest, and up to Oregon and Colorado in marshy to rather dry environments⁽²⁴⁾. In Hawai‘i, on all the inhabited islands except Ni‘ihau. Collected on Hawai‘i in 1911⁽⁷⁰⁾. Prevents establishment of native species in disturbed forest sites, hinders hikers]. *Urvillei* in honor of Jules Sebastien Cesar D’Urville, 19th century French explorer; *dilatatum*, spread out, for decumbent habit^(24, 70).

Distribution: Native to the New World. Naturalized throughout the subtropics. Occurs in mesic areas along forest roads, trails, and open disturbed areas in low to middle elevations on all the main Hawaiian islands except Ni‘ihau and Kaho‘olawe. Also on Midway. First collected on Lana‘i in 1914⁽⁷⁰⁾. Has been accidentally introduced into the Alaka‘i Swamp on Kaua‘i by hikers.

Environmental impact: Grows in dense stands along forest trails and roads. Displaces natives. A nuisance to hikers on trails.

Management: Sensitive to glyphosate and imazapyr. On Kaua‘i, drizzle application of glyphosate at 0.5 lb/acre suppressed vaseygrass on Nu‘alolo Crossover Trail for 6 months. On the Alaka‘i Swamp Trail suppression



Dallisgrass, *Paspalum dilatatum*

by the same method was excellent and follow-up treatments required very little glyphosate at 6 and 12 months after initial treatment.