

# *Leersia oryzoides* (L.) Sw.

Cut-grass

Key:

**Dots** refer to the native sites of the species

**Numbers** refer to the nearby Botanical Collections



## *Starting references*

### **Family**

Poaceae

### **IUCN category (2001)**

Endangered

### **Habit**

Rhizomatous herb (perennial).

### **Habitat**

Nutrient-rich mud around the cattle-trampled margins of lakes and ponds, ditches, canal banks and riversides.

### **Reasons for decline**

Cessation of traditional watercourse management, including periodic dredging which creates areas of bare mud for colonisation.

Cessation of grazing which is needed to suppress growth of competitive vegetation. The associated poaching of the ground also provides suitable conditions for germination.

Restricted availability of wet grassland and swamp habitat as a result of maintaining drainage systems.

Water pollution may also be a factor, but further research is required to confirm this.

### **Distribution in wild**

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km <sup>2</sup> occurrences)	Population (plants)
England	Along the Taunton-Bridgewater, near North Newton, Somer.	1	1 clump in 1988, 0 in 1990
	Shillinglee Lake & Amberley Wild Brooks, W. Sussex	2	many
	Basingstoke Canal, Sheerwater, Surrey	1	tiny

## *Ex situ Collections*

### **Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species**

- 1 University of Bristol Botanic Garden
- 2 Bristol Zoo Gardens
- 3 Wildwalk At-Bristol
- 4 Congrove Cottage
- 5 West Dean Gardens
- 6 Newhaven Botanic Garden
- 7 Sheffield Park
- 8 High Beeches Gardens
- 9 Nymans Garden (NT)
- 10 Borde Hill Garden
- 11 RBG Kew
- 12 RHS Wisley

### **Gardens with specialisation on family Poaceae or genus *Leersia***

None

### **Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections**

## *Conservation information*

*Leersia oryzoides* is listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981

## **Linkages to BAPs**

A Species Action Plan has been produced for *Leersia oryzoides*, lead partner is Charlotte Murray, Environment Agency

LBAPs with records for *Leersia oryzoides* are:

Mid-somerset Hills Natural Area Bap

Sedgemoor District, Somerset

South Somerset Bap

Taunton Deane Biodiversity Action Plan

#### **Habitat Management**

Protected sites with records for *Leersia oryzoides* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

#### **Conservation programmes**

Before the Basingstoke Canal was reconstructed, plants from the tiny colony at Sheerwater were successfully transplanted to three other sites nearby.

#### **Web References**

- NBN Gateway database: <http://www.searchnbn.net>
- UK Species Action Plan: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=405>