Name

Arrhenatherum elatius

False oat-grass



Habitat/Range A very familiar grass, found in a wide range of neutral to base-rich habitats. It is the characteristic grass of MG1 community, typical of <u>neutral grasslands</u> and found on road verges, along <u>hedges</u> and river banks, often in association with cocksfoot. It is a coloniser and stabiliser of limestone scree, bare calcareous cliffs and maritime shingle and is also found in <u>coastal dunes</u>. It is found all over the UK from sea-level to the uplands (0 – 550 m) but avoids the most mountainous areas of central and northern Scotland.

Identification A large tufted and erect-growing perennial grass 50-150 cm tall. Leaves are quite broad and light green and generally lax and rough or slightly hairy, ligules are membranous and 1-3 mm long and quite smooth-edged. The panicles are long, between 10 and 30 cm, composed of bunches of silky shining spikelets with conspicuous long (10-17 mm), angled awns. Panicles are quite persistent and will remain identifiable well into winter.



