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SPECIES	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>
COMMON NAME	Cogongrass, Satintail, Blady grass
ORIGIN	Southeast Asia, the Philippines, China, and Japan
DESIGN USE	For soil stabilization and sometimes used for roofing thatch



HEIGHT

2–4 ft

HABIT

A tufted, perennial grass with hard, creeping rhizomes

FORM

A bright chartreuse green perennial grass and forms dense stands, to the exclusion of other plant species.

FLOWERS

Borne in conspicuous cylindrical silky white spikes. Each individual flower spikelet has two stamens and two feathery stigmas and is attached to a fuzzy plume.

FLOWERING PERIOD

May flower year-round

VARIATIONS

- “Rubra” (burgundy foliage)
- “Red Baron” (cranberry-red leaf tips)
- “Major” (more common yellow-green)



CLIMATIC TOLERANCES

Wide range of habitats, from dry sand dunes to swamps and at elevations from sea level to 2000 m, in any soil type if there is sufficient moisture.

HORTICULTURE

Some horticulturists recommend growing the red varieties in part shade, but the common green cogongrass thrives in full sun. It is an aggressive, well-adapted weed, able to thrive in poor soils and difficult to eradicate because of its tough rhizomes. Cogongrass is easy to grow but controlling it is another matter.

REFERENCES

- <http://keys.lucidcentral.org>
- http://www.floridata.com/ref/i/impe_cyl.cfm

