

Phalaris canariensis L., ANNUAL CANARY GRASS. Annual, fibrous-rooted, several–many-stemmed at base, shoots with erect, terminal, dense inflorescence, 30–60(–100) cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, glabrous, not glaucous. **Stems (culms):** finely ridged, to 3 mm diameter, tough; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; sheath open with margins overlapping at base, finely ridged, membranous margin wider on hidden margin, without or with short lobes (auricles) at top; ligule membranous, obtuse to rounded, 3–6 mm long, jagged and deeply cut, puberulent, not scabrous; blade linear and long-tapered, 35–240 × 2–10 mm, the widest near sheath, flat, minutely serrate on margins, parallel-veined. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in dense, terminal, ± ovoid to oblong-ovoid, spikelike panicles, panicle 15–50 × 10–20 mm in fruit, short lateral branches ascending, densely layered, condensed and each repeatedly forked, with strongly flattened spikelets having broad side facing outward, spikelets with 3 florets with 2 lower florets sterile and upper floret bisexual, spikelet whitish initially with prominent green stripes on outer side of spikelet, bracteate, lacking awns; peduncle to 200 mm long, at anthesis usually fully exerted from sheath of flag leaf; rachis glabrous, branch and branchlet axes and spikelet stalks minutely scabrous with many ascending short teeth, yellowish; stalk of spikelet < 1 mm long. **Spikelet:** breaking above glumes as 1 unit (lemmas of 2 sterile florets + fruit-bearing fertile floret); **glumes** 2, strongly keeled and flattened, broadly elliptic to narrowly obovate in outline, 7–10 mm long, membranous on margins, 3-veined with 1 curved green vein along keel to acute tip and 1 green vein on each side converging on tip, winged from midpoint, scabrous along keel and wing and lacking other teeth or lobes, glabrous; **lemma** (sterile floret) appressed to lemma of fertile floral, awl-shaped, 2–4.5 mm long, persistent; **lemma** (fertile floret) strongly keeled and symmetrically folded along midvein, ovate in outline and 4.5–6.5 mm long, 5-veined and greenish-membranous, glossy, densely villous with upward-appressed hairs, internally glabrous; **palea** (fertile floret) keeled and keel-shaped in outline (folded between veins), ca. 4 mm long, membranous except having 2 closely spaced, green veins along keel, keel short-villous. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** typically absent; **stamens** 3, free; filaments slender but somewhat stiff, white; anthers fully exerted, dorsifixed, dithecal, 2–4 mm long, pale light yellow; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ovoid, pale yellowish green, tapered to style, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, ± fused at base, exerted from tip of keeled palea and lemma, colorless, straight and glabrous to above midpoint and feathery-stigmatic (plumose) above midpoint.

Naturalized. Annual currently known from one locality in range. *Phalaris canariensis* tends to have short and relatively wide panicles, and in this species the lemma of the fertile floret is the largest of the genus (to 6.5 mm long) and has a dense cover of straight hairs that can be observed projecting from the spikelets on the panicle.

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