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SALTdeck Series

COMMON COUCH G5 *Cynodon dactylon* GRASS



COMMON COUCH

Cynodon dactylon



Alternative names: *Cynodon dactylon* var. *dactylon*, Common Couch Grass, Bermuda Grass.

Family: Poaceae.

Description: Tough mat-forming stoloniferous and rhizomatous grass to about 30 cm tall. Flowers most of the year with a digitate (spreading like fingers of a hand) seedhead.

Key features: Closely appressed purplish spikelets in a digitate seedhead of 3–6 radiating arms (see photo).

Value: Regarded as a useful source of forage, and recovers quickly from grazing.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: A tough and resilient perennial with moderate tolerance to saline soils (especially the native forms) and the ability to thrive in intermittently flooded conditions (see photo).

Notes: *Cynodon dactylon* var. *dactylon* is generally recognised as native to Australia. Two varieties are recognised in Victoria primarily based on the number of radiating spikes. One variety, *Cynodon dactylon* var. *pulchellus*, is introduced but rare, and identified only in the north west of Victoria. Numerous cultivars have been introduced for golf courses, bowling greens and ovals. These are generally less salt tolerant than the native forms.

References: *Flora of South Australia*, Jessop and Toelken (eds), Part 4, 4th edition 1986. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 2, 1994. *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 4, 1993. *Plants of Western NSW*, Cunningham et al., 1981.

