

Anthoxanthum odoratum - Sweet Vernal-Grass

RFS

ROYAL FORESTRY SOCIETY



Plant description

A common perennial grass with distinctive oval flower spikes. The grass turns pale and then golden in August as the plant fruits. The leaf blades are up to 5mm and taper to a point. The stalks have a sweet, vanilla taste when chewed.

What does this tell me about my woodland?

This grass will grow in practically any soil that isn't waterlogged. The plants are short lived but grow quickly and readily self-seed. As with many grasses, they can compete with newly planted trees. As such, effective weed control is especially important for tree establishment in sites with a large population of sweet vernal-grass.

pH – Acid, neutral and alkaline

Occurs in NVC Communities – W11

Photo Acknowledgements: Plantlife: Andrew Gagg