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# Common Weeds of Guam by Chin-Tian Lee, Ph.D.

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## COMMON WEEDS OF GUAM

The need for comprehensive information about Guam weeds has long been expressed by the general public and farmers interested in one or more aspects of identifying and controlling weeds. More than 50 weeds are described and illustrated in this publication. It is hoped this publication will assist the agriculturists, gardeners, farmers and students in identifying the common weeds of Guam.

### What Is A Weed?

A weed is a pest. It is an enemy of agriculture and many related branches of human activity. Man has been at war against weeds since the beginning of agriculture. Although we have a general concept as to what a weed is, there is no one definite definition. The reason is this: the concept of a weed is relative and the situation when a plant is considered a weed depends mainly upon the economic importance attributed to it by human beings. There are many useful plants which have turned into pestiferous weeds simply because of the relative value that man has accorded them. What one could call a weed, however, may be described as follows:

A plant growing out of place.

A plant growing where something else should grow.

A plant growing where nothing should grow.

A plant that is noxious, useless, or poisonous.

A plant whose economic importance is yet to be discovered.

Thus many plants that affect the beneficial utilization of the environment by man falls under the category of a weed until such time he discovers some use or need for that plant. Some crop plants can become weeds when they appear where they are not wanted. On the other hand, a number of plants usually thought of as weeds may actually be useful under some conditions or in some areas. For example, tangantangan (*Leucaena leucocephala* Lam.) may help to control soil erosion or may serve as firewood.

### Why Are Weeds Troublesome?

Weeds reduce crop yields by competing with crops for the essential energy source such as nutrients, light, moisture, and carbon dioxide. The work of eradicating weeds from crop fields increase costs of production. Weeds reduce the quality of crop products. Also, weeds harbour insects and diseases by acting as alternate hosts for insects and organisms causing diseases. Some weeds can cause skin irritation and hay fever.

## Classification of Weeds

### I. Based on Morphology

#### 1. Grass Weeds:

Grass weeds are monocots and have the following distinct properties: two-ranked leaves that are usually long, narrow and upright with parallel venations, protected apical meristem (growing point), and hollow stem.

#### 2. Broadleaf Weeds:

Broadleaf weeds are mainly dicots and have the following distinct properties: leaves usually broad with netted venation, exposed apical meristem.

### II. Based on Life Cycle

#### 1. Annual Weeds:

These plants complete their life cycle in one year or less. They grow from seed, mature, and produce seed for the next generation in one year or less.

#### 2. Biennial weeds:

Plants with a two-year life cycle. They grow from seed and develop a heavy root and compact cluster of leaves the first year. In the second year they mature, produce seed, and die.

#### 3. Perennial weeds:

Plants which live for more than two years and may live indefinitely are perennials. During the winter, many lose their foliage and the stems of others may die back to the ground. Others produce tubers, bulbs, rhizomes (below-ground root-like stems), or stolons (above-ground stems that produce roots).

##### a. Creeping perennials:

Plants produce seeds but also produce rhizomes or stolons.

##### b. Simple perennials:

Plants normally reproduced by seeds. But a root piece may produce new plants following mechanical injury during cultivation.

##### c. Bulbous perennials:

Plants may reproduce by seed, bulblets or bulb.



- Family Name** : Amaranthaceae  
**Scientific Name** : *Amaranthus spinosus* L.  
**Common Name** : Spiny Amaranth  
**Local Name** : Enmosa Biaja  
**General Description** :

An erect, broad-leaf, annual plant, 1 to 4 feet high. Stems angled or with longitudinal line or ridges, green or brown. Leaves alternate, broadly lanceolate to ovate, margins entire, with a pair of straight spine up to ½ inch long at the base. Flowers long, slender, terminal, with axillary spikes in clusters, greenish. Fruits one-seeded, opening by a line around the center. Seeds very small, reddish brown, lens-shaped, shiny.

**Propagation:**

By seeds which have a long viability. Dispersed principally by wind and water.

**Local Occurrence:**

A very troublesome weed especially of newly plowed or disturbed areas.



Family Name : Amaranthaceae

Scientific Name : *Gomphrena serrata* L. (= *Gomphrena dispersa* Standley)

Common Name : Gomphrena

General Description :

A small, creeping, hairy, broad-leaf, annual plant. Leaves short-petioled, opposite. Flowers white, small globose headed.

Propagation:

By seeds.

Local Occurrence:

Found along roadsides, lawns and waste places.



**Family Name** : Boraginaceae

**Scientific Name** : *Heliotropium procumbens* L. (= *Heliotropium ovalifolium* Forsskal)

**Common Name** : Heliotrope

**Local Name** : Huning-Tasi

**General Description** :

A small, branching, prostrate, broad-leaf, annual plant. Leaves opposite. Flowers tiny, white, along one side of a slender, coiled forked stem or circinus.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Found along roadsides and waste places.



**Family Name** : Compositae

**Scientific Name** : *Bidens pilosa* L. (= *Bidens Alba* L.)

**Common Name** : Beggar Tick, Guam Daisy, Spanish Needle

**General Description** :

An erect, branching, broad-leaf, annual plant, 2 to 3 feet high. Leaves opposite, serrate margins, vary in size and shape, the upper trifoliate in the upper leaves and the lower one simple. Flower heads about 1 inch in diameter with white petals, on long stems at branch tip, ray flower around the outer edge yellow, disk flower in the center brownish-yellow. Fruits an achene, barbed with 2 straight or slightly curved awns.

**Propagation:**

By seeds. Flower head consists of 30 - 50 achenes. The barbed seeds stick to clothes and are dispersed.

**Local Occurrence:**

Very common, all over the island not only in waste ground and along roadsides but sometimes at the fringes of forest, sometimes forming dense thickets nearly 3 feet tall.



- Family Name** : Compositae
- Scientific Name** : *Chromolaena odorata* L. (= *Eupatorium odoratum* L.)
- Common Name** : Eupatorium, Masigsig
- General Description** :

A large, erect, branching, broad-leaf, perennial plant, 2 to 6 feet high. Stems tough, short bristly hair. Leaves opposite, ovate, 2 to 6 inches long, hairy, coarsely serrate, conspicuously three vein from the base. Flowering clusters purplish or white, in more or less terminal and axillary flowering flat-topped inflorescence. Seeds small, slim with hairs at the top.

**Propagation:**

By seeds which are produced in great numbers and which are airborne.

**Local Occurrence:**

It is an aggressive weed found in waste places and along roadsides.





**Family Name** : Compositae

**Scientific Name** : *Conyza canadensis* (L.) cronq.

**Common Name** : Small-Leaf Horseweed

**General Description** :

An erect, broad-leaf, annual plant, varying from a few inches to 5 to 6 feet at blossom time. Stems single up to the flower branches, densely clothed with erect leaves; the lower ones dying but remaining attached and hanging downward. Leaves linear-lanceolate, 2 to 4 inches long, the lower ones toothed or entire, tapering into short petioles. Inflorescence a spreading, leafy pancile bearing numerous small cylindrical heads with inconspicuous white florets, each head supported on a short stalk. Seeds, flat, each with a tuft of bristly hair.

**Propagation:**

By seeds. A single plant produces thousands of seeds which are dispresed by wind.

**Local Occurrence:**

Very common in lawns and waste places, especially on limestone soil.



**Family Name** : Compositae

**Scientific Name** : *Mikania scadens* L.

**Common Name** : Mikania

**General Description** :

A climbing, twining perennial plant. Leaves opposite, palmately veined, dentate. Flowering heads white, in terminal clusters.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Grows in dense mass over vegetation along roadsides or in disturbed areas.



- Family Name : Compositae
- Scientific Name : *Tridax procumbens* L.
- Common Name : Coat Buttons, Wild Daisy
- General Description :

A sprawling, small, broad-leaf, annual plant, 1 to 2 feet high. Leaves opposite, sharply lobed, petioles with long white hairs. Flower heads terminal, white ray flowers, yellow disk florets.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Very common in lawns and waste places. More common on limestone on limestone soil than volcanic.



- Family Name** : Compositae
- Scientific Name** : *Vernonia cinera* (L.) Less.
- Common Name** : Vernonia, Little Ironweed
- Local Name** : Chaguan-Santa-Maria
- General Description** :

An erect, broad-leaf, annual plant, 1 to 2 feet high. stems covered with fine hairs. Leaves opposite, ovate acute, variously shaped; the upper ones narrow, small, and sessile, the lower ones broadly lanceolate with prominent leafstalk and entire margin. Flower head purplish or pinkish, small, on slender stalk, 20-25 flowers forming a terminal panicle. Fruits an achene, small with whitish ring of hairs at the top.

**Propagation:**

The achenes of seeds are easily dispersed by wind.

**Local Occurrence:**

Found mostly in waste places and lawns



- Family Name** : Compositae
- Scientific Name** : *Youngia japonica* L.
- Common Name** : Youngia, Asiatic Hawkbeard

**General Description :**

An erect, low growing, broad-leaf, annual plant,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 feet high. Stems smooth, hollow with a milky sap. Leaves mostly at base of stem with arosette of petiolate, oblanceolate, lobed. Flower head yellow with 15 to 20 small yellow florets occurring in a slender panicle. Seeds topped with a soft white ring of hairs.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Found usually in shady spots near houses and buildings.



Family Name : Convolvulaceae:

Scientific Name : *Ipomoea congesta* R. Br.

Common Name : Blue Morning Glory

General Description :

A broad-leaf, twining, perennial plant. Stems twining, climbing. Leaves heart-shaped, 3 to 4 ½ inches, entire flowers single or few on each stalk, bracts linear-lanceolate; corolla blue in the morning, fading to pink in the afternoon, about 2 ½ inches long. Fruit a capsule, subglobose, 5/8 inch in diameter. Seeds 2, dark brown, pubescent.

Propagation:

By seeds.

Local Occurrence:

This is the most common morning-glory in guam. These vines are aggressive, which quickly cover old fields, especially on limestone soils, and sometimes smothering the shrubs and trees in a dense mat of stems.



- Family Name** : Convolvulaceae
- Scientific Name** : *Ipomoea pescaprae* (L.) Roth
- Common Name** : Beach Morning - Glory
- Local Name** : Alalag-Tasi

**General Description :**

A broad-leaf, perennial plant. Stems long, prostrate, running, containing tough fibers and milky juice. Leaves 2 to 3 inches in diameter, thick and leathery, leafstalks 2 or 3 inches long, ovate to almost circular, with small sharp points in the notch at the tip. Flower pink, bell-shaped, sepals short, broadly ovate, corolla about 2 inches across. Fruit a capsule, 2-celled. Seeds brown, covered with hairs.

**Propagation:**

By seeds and by stolons which are very long and often rooting at the nodes.

**Local Occurrence:**

Common on sandy or rocky beaches just above the high tide line, sometimes along roadsides.



- Family Name : Convolvulaceae
- Scientific Name : *Ipomoea triloba* (L.)
- Common Name : Little Bell, Aiea Morning Glory
- Local Name : Fofgu-Sabána

**General Description :**

Usually a small, broad-leaf, twining, perennial plant. Leaves cordate, acuminate, 3-lobed, mostly  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 2 inches long, longer than wide. Stems somewhat angled, glabrous or pubescent. Flowers red or purple, up to 1 inch across, one to a few on a stem. Fruit a capsule, pubescent. Seed glabrous or with a few minute hairs.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Usually found in an old pastures or in savannahs, chiefly in southern hilly regions, locally abundant.





Family Name : Cucurbitaceae

Scientific Name : *Momordia charantia L.*

Common Name : Wild Bitter-Melon

Local Name : Almagosa

General Description :

A slender, herbaceous climber. Stems pubescent. Leaves 4-5 inches long, palmately 5-7 lobed. Flowers bright yellow. Fruits warty, orange when ripe. Seeds bright red.

Propagation:

By seeds.

Local Occurance:

Very commonly found along roadsides and in waste areas.



- Family Name** : Cyperaceae
- Scientific Name** : *Cyperus kyllingia* Endlicher
- Common Name** : White Kyllinga
- Local Name** : Chaguan Lemae, Botoncillo

**General Description** :

A small, perennial grass with creeping rhizome. Leaves many, short, leaf sheath thin, membranous, pale to purplish. Flower stems often 3 to 18 inches high, ridged, soft, with 3 to 4 dark brown leafy bracts at the top. Flower spike 1, ovoid,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter. Spikelets flat, white, numerous, 1 to 2 flowered, flower scales membranous, strawlike. Fruit a nut, brown.

**Propagation:**

By seeds and creeping rhizomes.

**Local Occurrence:**

A weed found in waste and grassy places.



**Family Name** : Cyperaceae

**Scientific Name** : *Cyperus liquularis* L.

**Common Name** : Rocket Sedge

**General Description** :

An erect, perennial grass with short rhizomes, 2 to 4 feet high. Stems triangular, 3 feet long. Flowers with dark, reddish-brown inflorescence, several dense, cylindrical spikes at the ends of short branches.

**Propagation:**

By seed and creeping rhizomes.

**Local Occurrence:**

Found in waste plaes and along roadsides.



**Family Name** : Cyperaceae

**Scientific Name** : *Cyperus polystachyos* Rottboell

**Common Name** : Cyperus, Sedge

**General Description** :

An erect, annual, rarely perennial grass, 1 - 2½ feet high. Stems triangular. Leaves about ¼ inch wide. Flowers brown inflorescences, head-like several branches bearing spikelets to about ½ inch long.

**Propagation:**

Usually by seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Commonly found in waste places and along roadsides.



- Family Name** : Cyperaceae  
**Scientific Name** : *Cyperus rotundus* L.  
**Common Name** : Purple Nutsedge  
**Local Name** : Chaguan Humatag

**General Description :**

A perennial grass. Stems unjointed, triangular, solid stem, 6 to 8 inches high. Leaves of young plant upright, penetrating, spreading in later growth; involucre leaves 3 or 4, at the top of the stem. Inflorescence a simple umbel 3 branches 4 to 6 in number, slender, up to 2½ inches long, each ending in a cluster of brown, narrow spikelets. Fruits an achene, 3 - angled.

**Propagation:**

By rhizomes and underground tubers.

**Local Occurrence:**

A widely spread weed usually found in waste or cultivated areas, often in lawns.



- Family Name** : Euphorbiaceae  
**Scientific Name** : *Acalypha indica* L.  
**Common Name** : Acalypha  
**Local Name** : Hierba del Cancer

**General Description :**

A small, erect, broad-leaf, annual plant with a few ascending branches, 1 to 2 feet high. Leaves alternate, rather coarsely toothed, broadly ovate, long petioled. Flowers small, sessile, in axillary spikes from leaf axils; male and female flowers separate but borne together, male flower minute. Seed pod containing 3 seeds, small, dull reddish-brown to gray.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Found in waste lands, lawns and cultivated areas.



- Family Name** : Euphorbiaceae
- Scientific Name** : *Euphorbia hirta* L.
- Common Name** : Garden Spurge, Euphorbia
- Local Name** : Golondrina

**General Description :**

An ascending, broad-leaf, annual plant, about 1½ feet high. Stems more or less hairy. Leaves opposite, narrowly ovate, short petioled, sharply serrate, asymmetrical, dark green and often purple above, pale green beneath. Flowers green, small, on very short axillary flower stalks. Fruit a capsule, hairy. Seeds 6 elonged, wrinkled, light brown.

**Propagation:**

By seeds. A single plant produces a lot of seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Usually found in lawns and roadsides.



**Family Name** : Euphorbiaceae

**Scientific Name** : *Phyllanthus amarus* Schum. & Thonn.

**Common Name** : Phyllanthus

**Local Name** : Maigo-Lalo

**General Description** :

A small, broad-leaf, annual plant, usually under 1 foot tall. Stems green or reddish. Leaves numerous small oblong-elliptic or squarish, glarous, about 3/8 inch long, regularly arranged one above another in two opposite rows. Flowers very small, in cymules hidden under the leaves, cymules bisexual, of 1 male and 1 female flower. Fruit a small capsule, depressed-globose. Seeds 5-7 ribbed.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Found in shady areas of moist soil. A common weed in lawns and cultivated areas.





**Family Name** : Gramineae

**Scientific Name** : *Brachiaria mutica* (Forsk.) Stapf (= *Panicum purpurascens* Raddi)

**Common Name** : Para Grass, Tall Panicum

**General Description** :

A stout, spreading, perennial grass, rooting from the stolons. Stems 6 to 8 feet long, trailing and intertwining, forming dense masses, the joints and sheath hairy. Leaves 4 to 12 inches long,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide, flat smooth, with stiff hairs at the base. Flowering panicle 6 to 12 inches long, usually purplish, densely flowered branches somewhat separated, subracemose.

**Propagation:**

By seeds and stolons.

**Local Occurrence:**

It thrives best in damp locations such as wet ditches, fields, and gullies. A very troublesome weed in cultivated areas, in waste lands, and along roadsides.



Family Name : Gramineae

Scientific Name : *Cenchrus echinatus* L.

Common Name : Southern Sandbur, Sandbur

General Description :

An erect, branching, annual grass, 1 to 2 feet high, decumbent and spreading at the base, somewhat tufted. Stems flattened, dark green. Leaves flat, 2 to 7 inches long, 1/8 to 3/8 inch wide, lower surface smooth, upper side rough, slightly hairy at the base. Inflorescence a spike, dense, cylindric, 1 to 4 inches long. Burs 5 to 50 or more, globular, densely arranged; the barbed spines or bristles, usually turning to purple with age, sometimes straw colored.

Propagation:

By seeds. Barbed burs of seed head which easily detach from the racemes and attach to clothing or animal hair.

Local Occurrence:

Common in moist disturbed places especially near the coast or on limestone soil. A troublesome weed in lawns, cultivated areas, waste places and along roadsides.



**Family Name** : Gramineae

**Scientific Name** : *Chloris barbata* (L.) Swartz

**Common Name** : Swollen Fingergrass

**General Description** :

An annual grass, 1 to 2 feet high. Stems erect or sometimes bent at the base and rooting at the lower joints, smooth, flattened and purple at the base. Leaves flat, 1 to 5 inches long, 1/10 to 1/8 inch wide, bluish-green, rough on the edges, often long-hairy near the base on the upper side. Flowering heads of 2 to 11 flexuous, purple, fingerlike spikes, 1 to 2 inches long at the tips of the stems. Spikelets closely imbricate, purplish, broad with 3 slender bristles.

**Propagation:**

By seeds. A single plant produces a lot of seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Abundant in abandoned fields, roadsides, vacant lots, particularly in dryer areas.



**Family Name** : Gramineae  
**Scientific Name** : *Chloris radiata* (L.) Swartz  
**Common Name** : Radiate Fingergrass

**General Description :**

An annual grass, 1 to 2 feet high. Stems smooth, flattened, sometimes purplish at the joints, spreading and much branched at the bases. Leaves 2 to 6 inches long, 1/16 to 1/8 inch wide with a boat-shaped rounded tip, rough throughout and usually with a few long hairs near the base on the upper side. Flowering heads of numerous delicate fingerlike spikes 1 to 3 inches long, close together and upright at the tips of the stems. Spikelets slender, with delicate bristles.

**Propagation:**

By seeds. A single plant produces a lot of seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

A very common weed in drier waste lands, cultivated areas and along roadsides.



**Family Name** : Gramineae

**Scientific Name** : *Chrysopogon aciculatus* (Retz.) Trin.

**Common Name** : Chrysopogon

**Local Name** : Infuk, Palaii

**General Description** :

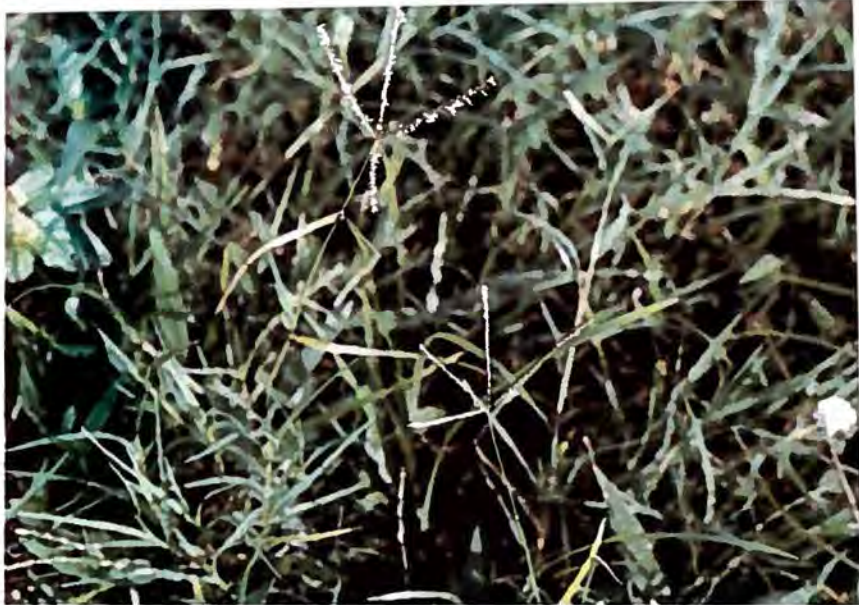
A perennial grass, 1 to 2 feet high, with short rhizomes and long leafy usually prostrate stolons. Leaves mostly basal, linear lanceolate, subobovate, 1 to 5 inches long, 1/8 to 1/4 inch wide, flat or folded, glabrous but margin scabrid. Flowering panicle rather slender, erect, up to 3 inches long, of fine simple branches, ascending. Spikelets sessile, slender, acuminate.

**Propagation:**

A very widespread weed with a very effective dispersal mechanism; the sharp spikelet may be carried in the fur of mammals, in feathers, in mud, and in stockings and trousers.

**Local Occurrence:**

An annoying grass in lawns and an aggressive weed which withstands trampling, poor soils and mowing.



- Family Name : Gramineae  
Scientific Name : *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.  
Common Name : Bermuda Grass  
Local Name : Grama

**General Description :**

A long-lived, prostrate, fine-leaved, perennial grass. Stems smooth, flattened, usually prostrate but sometimes somewhat upright. Leaves narrow, usually 1 to 4 inches long, 1/4 to 1/8 inch wide, rough on edges. Flowering head with 4 to 5 purplish spikes in one whorl in a fingerlike arrangement (digitately) at the tips of the stems. Spikelets in two rows tightly pressed to one side of rachis.

**Propagation:**

By seeds, creeping stolons and underground rhizomes.

**Local Occurrences:**

Frequent in lawns and sometimes in cultivated areas.



**Family Name** : Gramineae

**Scientific Name** : *Dactyloctenium aegyptium* (L.) Richt.

**Common Name** : Crowfoot Grass, Beach Wiregrass

**General Description** :

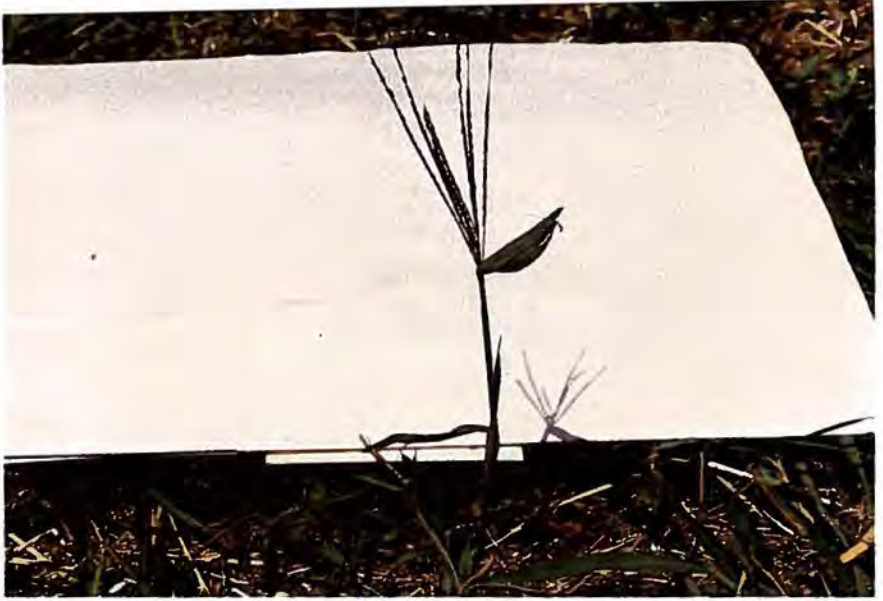
A spreading to slightly ascending annual grass,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. Leaves flat, rather narrow, smooth, or sparsely covered with soft hairs, with hairs swollen at the bases on both surfaces. Flowering stems erect, naked, with 2 to 6 short, thick, dark-colored spikes arranged in a fingerlike fashion (digitate).

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Mostly found around buildings, in waste places and lawns.



**Family Name** : Gramineae

**Scientific Name** : *Digitaria sanguinalis* (L.) Scop.

**Common Name** : Large Crabgrass

**General Description** :

A branching, spreading, annual grass. Stems stout, 1 to 3 feet long, usually decumbent at base, smooth, rooting at the nodes. Leaves 2 to 6 inches long,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide, somewhat hairy. Flowering heads in spikes 2 to 6 inches, 5 to 13 fingerlike branches, 2 to 6 inches long, in whorls or whorlike at tip of stem. Spikelet, paired along one side of rachis.

**Propagation:**

Mainly by seeds and sometimes by stolon. A single flowering stem produces hundreds of seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Very commonly found in cultivated fields, waste areas and lawns.





- Family Name** : Gramineae  
**Scientific Name** : *Digitaria violascens* Link  
**Common Name** : Small Crabgrass, Smooth Crabgrass

**General Description :**

An annual grass, 1 to 2 feet high, erect to spreading at the base and forming dense clumps. Stems smooth, stout. Leaves flat, 1 to 4 inches long, 1/8 to 1/4 inch wide, often reddish, usually smooth. Flowering heads with 2 to 9 slender fingerlike branches (smaller than the large crabgrass), 1 to 4 inches long, at the tip of the flowering stem or closely arranged along 1 to 2 inches of the upper part. Spikelets very small, always less than 1/10 inch long, dark-colored, closely pressed to the branches.

**Propagation:**

By seeds. A single flowering stem produces hundreds of seeds which are easily brushed off at maturity.

**Local Occurrence:**

Found abundant in moist and semi-dry areas. Common weed in cultivated areas and lawns.



- Family Name** : Gramineae  
**Scientific Name** : *Echinochloa colonum* (L.) Link  
**Common Name** : Jungle Rice  
**Local Name** : Chaguan-Agaga

**General Description** :

A smooth annual grass,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 feet high, usually prostrate, sometimes erect. Stems flattened, often reddish-purple, usually swollen at the joints, often in large tufts, rooting at the lower nodes. Leaves rather lax,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long,  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide. Flowering heads 4 to 7 racemes, green or tinged with reddish purple. Spikelets crowded, nearly sessile, awnless or shortly awned.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Found in very moist or swamp areas, near marshes and around water pipes.



- Family Name** : Gramineae
- Scientific Name** : *Eleusine indica* (L.) Gaertn.
- Common Name** : Goosegrass, Wiregrass
- Local Name** : Umog
- General Description** :

A branching, erect or prostrate, annual grass. Stems ascending, compressed, 12- 24 inches high, flattened, pale green. Leaves 6 to 10 inches long, boat-shaped, long hairy at the base. Flowering head with 2 to 6 flattened, fingerlike branches, 2 to 4 inches long. Seeds about 1/16 inch long, dark reddish-brown with conspicuous ridges.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Found in disturbed areas, especially in sandy soil. It is quick-growing and long lived.



**Family Name** : Gramineae

**Scientific Name** : *Eragrostis tenella* (L.) Roem. & Schult.

**Common Name** : Lovegrass

**General Description** :

A small, rather delicate annual grass, usually widely spreading at the base but sometimes erect. Stems  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, delicate but rather wiry. Leaves  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 inches long,  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide, slightly rough on the upper surfaces, smooth on the lower, with tufts of long hairs at the summits of the sheath. Flowering heads 2 to 6 inches long, rather delicate, with short branches and numerous spikelets, often reddish-purple.

**Propagation:**

By seeds. It grows quickly.

**Local Occurrence:**

Common in waste places, along roadsides and in lawns. Prefers sandy and limestone soils.



- Family Name** : Gramineae  
**Scientific Name** : *Miscanthus floridulus* Labill  
**Common Name** : Swordgrass, Sawgrass  
**Local Name** : Neti

**General Description :**

A large, evergreen, perennial grass, up to 9 feet high. Leaves finely toothed about 1 inch wide, pale glaucous green, above pubescent near base. Inflorescence paniculate, about 1½ feet long, white at maturity. Spikelets in pairs, one sessile, one pedicellate.

**Propagation:**

Mostly by short rhizomes.

**Local Occurrence:**

Usually on volcanic hills throughout southern Guam, rare and local on limestone soils.



- Family Name** : Gramineae
- Scientific Name** : *Panicum maximum* Jacq.
- Common Name** : Guinea Grass
- General Description** :

A tall, vigorous, tufted, perennial grass, up to 12 feet high, in large bunches with very short, thick rootstalks. Stems stout, somewhat flattened, nodes hairy. Leaves linear finely pointed, 6 to 30 inches long,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch wide, usually erect, yellowish-green, very rough on the edges and usually with long stiff hairs at the base on the upper sides. Flowering heads 9 to 20 inches long, 3 to 6 inches wide, with stiff ascending branches 4 to 8 inches long. Spikelets awnless, alike, symmetrical.

**Propagation:**

By seeds and short rhizomes.

**Local Occurrence:**

Common in cultivated areas and along roadsides. Often rather weedy, especially in ditches.

Note: Withstands long periods of drought. Young plants are palatable and nutritious. Therefore, they are used as forage.



**Family Name** : Gramineae  
**Scientific Name** : *Paspalum conjugatum* Berg.  
**Common Name** : T-grass, Sour Paspalum

**General Description :**

An extensively creeping, stoloniferous, perennial grass. Stolons leafy, rooting at the nodes often reddish - purple. Leaves lanceolate, acute, 2 to 5 inches long,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide, pale yellow green. Flowering stems 5 to 10 inches long, erect from the creeping base, with two spreading racemes forming a typical T-shape inflorescence. Spikelets flat, silky-hairy on the edges.

**Propagation:**

By seeds and stolons. It spreads rapidly.

**Local Occurrence:**

Found in cultivated areas and lawns.



**Family Name** : Gramineae

**Scientific Name** : *Pennisetum polystachyon* (L.) Schultes

**Common Name** : Mission Grass, Foxtail

**General Description** :

A tufted annual or perennial grass, 3 to 5 feet high. Leaves narrow, 12-14 inches long, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide, smooth to hairy. Flowering heads a dense spike, yellow-brown, 2 to 10 inches long,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch wide. Spikelets alike but surrounded by numerous bristles and falling from the spike with bristles attached.

**Propagation:**

By seed and stolons.

**Local Occurrence:**

Found in most dense savannah but can also be found growing in sparse patches along many roadsides.





**Family Name** : Gramineae  
**Scientific Name** : *Phragmites karka* (Retz.) Trin.  
**Common Name** : Reed  
**Local Name** : Karriso

**General Description :**

An erect, strongly tufted, robust, aquatic or subaquatic, perennial grass, with creeping stolons. Stems 9 to 12 feet high, simple or branches. Leaves coarse, sword-shaped with a broad base and an acute tip up to 22 inches long and 1½ inches wide. Flowering head green at first, but maturing to a light brown color, a long oblong panicle 8 to 28 inches long, with a robust central axis and with wide-spreading alternate, roughened, threadlike, nodding branches.

**Propagation:**

A vigorous, branched rhizome system that runs quickly to new areas in either the water or the substrate.

**Local Occurrence:**

Grows in thick pure stands on swamp lands and wet lands.



**Family Name** : Gramineae

**Scientific Name** : *Saccharum spontaneum* L.

**Common Name** : Wildcane

**General Description** :

A tall perennial grass, in habit much like the cultivated sugar cane but somewhat more slender. Stems stout, erect. Leaves narrow, pale green. Flower a large, silvery plume-like inflorescence, hairy penduncles and very fragile rachises.

**Propagation:**

By short rhizomes and stem cuttings.

**Local Occurrence:**

Found commonly along roadsides.



**Family Name** : Gramineae

**Scientific Name** : *Sorghum halepense* (L.) Pers.

**Common Name** : Johnson Grass

**General Description** :

An aggressive perennial grass. Stems erect, stout,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 9 feet high, arising from extensively creeping rhizomes. Leaves narrow, 6 to 20 inches long,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide, alternate, smooth or rough on the edges, many-nerved, with conspicuous midribs. Flowering head a spreading panicle, purplish, hairy, 6 to 12 inches long, 1 to 3 inches wide. Spikelets pale to deep purple, lanceolate,  $\frac{1}{5}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  long.

**Propagation;**

By seeds and short rihzomes.

**Local Occurrence:**

A very common weed found in all areas. Prefers well-drained soil. A problem weed in cultivated areas and along roadsides.

Note: Useful as forage, but at times poisonous to stock due to the accumulation of prussic and selenium.



**Family Name** : Gramineae

**Scientific Name** : *Sporobolus poiretii* (Roem. & Schult.) Hitchc.

**Common Name** : Smutgrass

**General Description** :

A perennial grass. Stems erect, solitary or in small clumps, 1 to 3½ feet high. Leaves flat or with edges rolled partly inward, rather firm, 1/10 to 1/4 inch wide at base, long, tapering to a fine point. Flowering heads a panicle, usually spikelet but more or less interrupted, 3 to 6 inches long, the branches of the inflorescence lying against the main axis or ascending. Spikelets about 1/16 inch long.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Found in moist areas especially in lawns.



**Family Name** : Gramineae

**Scientific Name** : *Stenotaphrum secundatum* (Walt.) Kuntze

**Common Name** : St. Augustine Grass, Buffalo Grass

**General Description** :

A perennial grass with creeping runners, rooting at the joints. Stems branched, pale green at the base, flattened, the flowering ones somewhat upright, 4 to 12 inches long. Leaves stiff, usually rather leathery, short, broad and rounded at the tips. Flowering heads spikelike, flat, single at the tips of the stems with the spikelets sunken in the corky axis.

**Propagation:**

By stolons.

**Local Occurrence:**

It is particularly tolerant to salt. Thrives in dry, open and shaded areas. A weed in lawns and wasteland.



**Family Name** : Leguminosae

**Scientific Name** : *Alysicarpus vaginalis* (L.) DC.

**Common Name** : Alysicarpus, One-Leaved Clover

**General Description** :

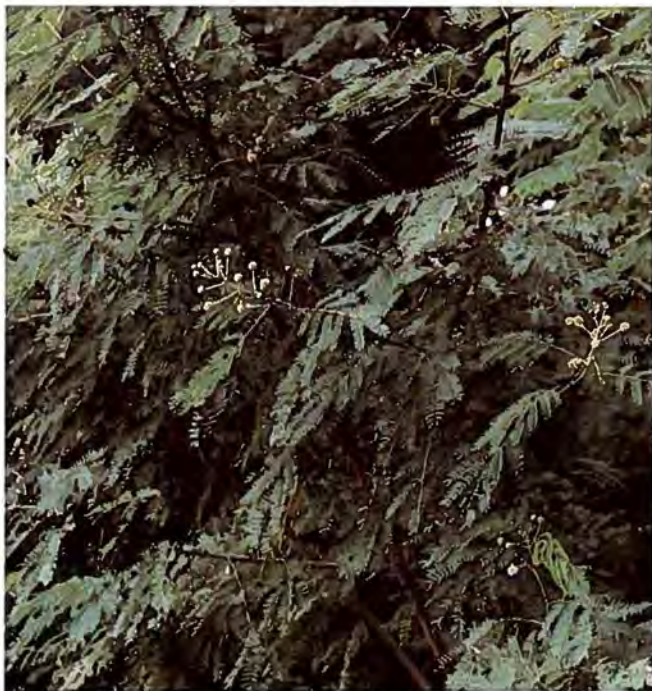
A more or less prostrate, broad-leaf, perennial plant. Stems numerous, jointed, with stiff hairs, under favorable conditions stems may become 1 or 2 feet long. Leaves somewhat dimorphic, the proximal elliptic, the distal narrow, lanceolate, simple, rounded at tips, obtuse, or truncate at the base, with short petioles. Flowers reddish-purple, in terminal racemes, 1/8 inch long, corolla pea-shaped. Pods about 3/4 inch long, cylindrical, rugose, jointed. Seeds usually 5-7, oblong-oval, dark brown.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Usually found in lawns, by roadside ditches and in waste areas.



**Family Name** : Leguminosae

**Scientific Name** : *Leucaena leucocephala* Lam.

**Common Name** : Tangantangan

**General Description** :

A small, thornless, shrub or upright tree, 10 to 30 feet high. Leaves opposite, compound, bipinnate, about 20 paired leaflet. Flower white, in globular heads, axillary from branch end, on long stalks. Pods flat, 4 to 6 inches long, 15 to 20 seeds. Seeds glossy brown, oval-oblong, flattish.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

It is fast-growing, tolerates disturbed habits, preferring limestone soil. Hence it is found more abundant in central and northern Guam than in southern Guam.

Note: It can be used as forage due to high protein content in the leaves and stems. However, it contains a chemical "Mimosine" which can cause loss of hair in nonruminant animals. It is a good source of wood for charcoal and of leaves for green manure.



**Family Name** : Leguminosae

**Scientific Name** : *Mimosa pudica* L.

**Common Name** : Sensitive plant, Sleeping Grass

**General Description** :

A prostrate, creeping, broad-leaf, perennial plant. Stems reddish-brown, with interstipular thorn and scattered prickles on internode. Leaves compound, having 12 to 25 paired leaflets that fold together if touched. Flowering heads pinkish, ovoid about 0.5 inch in diameter. Seed pods flat and prickly.

**Propagation:**

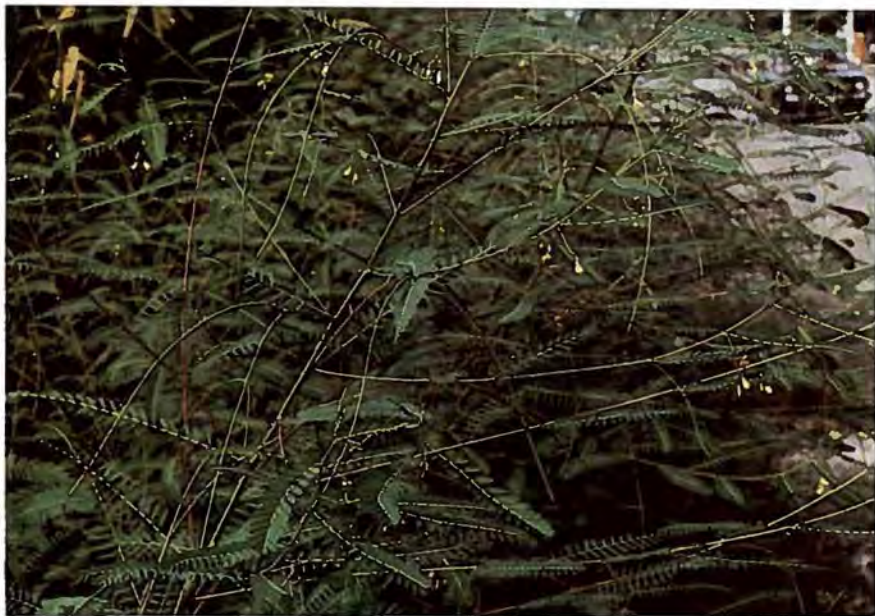
By seeds. Bristles on seed pod can stick to fur of animals or to clothing and be dispersed.

**Local Occurrence:**

Very common in cultivated areas, lawns and waste lands.

**Note:** The sleeping movement of Mimosa is due to a rapid depletion of water from leaf tissues.





**Family Name** : Leguminosae

**Scientific Name** : *Sesbania cannabina* (Retz.) Pers.

**Common Name** : Sesbania

**General Description** :

A small, slender, annual shrub, about 3 feet high. Leaves are large compounded, having 30-40 blunt, gray-green leaflets. Flowers rather small, pale yellow about 3/8 inch long. Pods slender, curved, round in section, pendant, slightly constricted between the seeds. Seeds numerous, small.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Mostly found along roadsides.



- Family Name** : Lobeliaceae
- Scientific Name** : *Laurentia longiflora* L.
- Common Name** : Star-of-Bethlehem
- General Description** :

A low growing, broad-leaf, perennial plant, 1 to 2 feet high with few or no branches. Leaves dark green, rosette, sessile, sharply lobed. Flowers white, erect, starlike, borne singly at leaf axis. Fruits a nodding capsule about ½ inch long. Seeds many, ovate, light brown, minute.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Found in cultivated lands, roadsides and in waste places.

Note: The plant has an abundance of milky sap which may cause blindness if it gets in the eyes.



**Family Name** : Malvaceae

**Scientific Name** : *Sida acuta* Burmann

**Common Name** : Sida

**Local Name** Escobilla Papago, Escobilla Adumelon

**General Description** :

A low growing, slender, annual shrub, about 3 feet high. Leaves lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, acute, obtuse or rounded at base, sharply serrate, light green beneath. Flowers 1 or 2 in axils, yellow.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Commonly found in waste grounds and along roadsides.



- Family Name** : Oxalidaceae  
**Scientific Name** : *Oxalis corniculata* L.  
**Common Name** : Yellow Wood-Sorrel  
**Local Name** : Agsom, Apsom

**General Description :**

A creeping, broad-leaf, annual or perennial plant, 1 feet or more in height. Leaves cloverlike, digitately trifoliate, long petioles and round leaflets. Flowers yellow, 1 to 5 arranged in umbels. Fruits an oblong capsule containing about 20 small brown seeds.

**Propagation:**

By seed and by creeping stolons.

**Local Occurrence:**

Commonly found in lawns and waste lands.



- Family Name** : Passifloraceae
- Scientific Name** : *Passiflora foetida* L. var. hispida
- Common Name** : Love-in-a-mist, Scarlet-fruited Passion Flower
- Local Name** : Kinahulo Atadao

**General Description** :

A smooth, broad-leaf, perennial plant, vine trailing and climbing with tendrils. Leaves 1 to 1 ½ inches long, blade cut halfway down three times, heart-shaped at the base, surface uneven, velvety, venation distinct. Flowers solitary, axillary, white and purple flowers up to 2 inches in diameter. Fruits orange, ¾ inch in diameter, round rind of 3 or 4 sections. Seeds flat, numerous.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local Occurrence:**

Grows well on both volcanic and limestone soils. Commonly seen in waste areas and along the roadsides.



- Family Name** : Polygonaceae
- Scientific Name** : *Antigonon leptopus* Hooker & Arnott
- Common Name** : Chain-of-Love, Love Vine
- Local Name** : Cadena de Amor

**General Description :**

A broad-leaf, trailing vine with tendrils, perennial plant. Leaves angular, textured, broadly ovate, 1 ¼ to 3 inches long, simple, usually undulate leaves. Flower red, pink or white in many-flowered racemes. Fruit an achene.

**Propagation:**

By underground tubers.

**Local occurrence:**

Commonly found along roadsides.



**Family Name** : Portulacaceae

**Scientific Name** : *Portulaca oleracea* L.

**Common Name** : Purslane, Pigweed

**Local Name** : Botdologas, Bodulagas, Donkulu

**General Description** :

Entire plant showing fleshy stems, prostrate, broad-leaf, annual. Stems juicy, smooth, often reddish, either completely prostrate or turned up at the ends, sometimes forming mats 1 foot or more in diameter. Leaves alternate or clustered, simple, juicy, and smooth. Flowers small, yellow, in axils of leaves and branches. Seeds small, flattened, broadly oval, glossy black.

**Propagation:**

By seeds. Each plant produces hundreds of seed.

**Local occurrence:**

Very commonly found in cultivated ares, waste places and in lawns. The fleshy stems and leaves make this weed drought-resistant, difficult to kill.



- Family Name** : Solanaceae
- Scientific Name** : *Physalis peruviana* L.
- Common Name** : Poha, Cape Gooseberry
- General Description** :

A partially erect, spreading shrub, woody at the base, 1 to 3 feet high. Leaves scattered, soft, ovate or heart-shaped. Flowers axillary, solitary, bell-shaped, pale yellow with purple blotches within calyx becomes large, bladderlike and dry, loosely enclosing the fruit. Fruit a berry, globular, yellow, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter. Seeds small, in juicy pulp, flesh partly acidic, juicy, with pleasing flavor.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local occurrence:**

Common on open mountain slopes. A weed in cultivated areas.





**Family Name** : Verbenaceae

**Scientific Name** : *Stachytarpheta indica* L.  
(= *Dysvhyystphrys jamaicensis* L.)

**Common Name** : Jamaica Vervain, False Verena

**General Description** :

An erect, sparsely-branched, perennial plant, 1 to 6 feet high. Leaves opposite, slightly hairy or smooth, pale green ablong ovate, serrate, contracting at base into short leafstalks. Flowers pale violet, numerous on green elongated, terminal spikes, 2 to 3 opening at a time. Fruits small, 2-seeded.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local occurrence:**

Commonly found in cultivated areas, waste places and roadsides.



**Family Name** : Verbenaceae

**Scientific Name** : *Stachytarpheta urticaefolia* (Salisb.) Sims.

**Common Name** : Nettled-Leaved Vervain

**General Description** :

A perennial, woody herb or small shrub, branched. Stems smooth, 1 to 4 feet high. Leaves ovate, wedge-shaped, sharply pointed at the tip, serrate, 1 to 2 inches long. Flower blue, sessile, about 3/16 inch long, borne on slender spike 6 to 12 inches long. Fruits a nutlet in a drupe, enclosed by a persistent calyx.

**Propagation:**

By seeds.

**Local occurrence:**

Found in waste areas and cultivated lands.

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