

## *Alopecurus aequalis* Sobol.

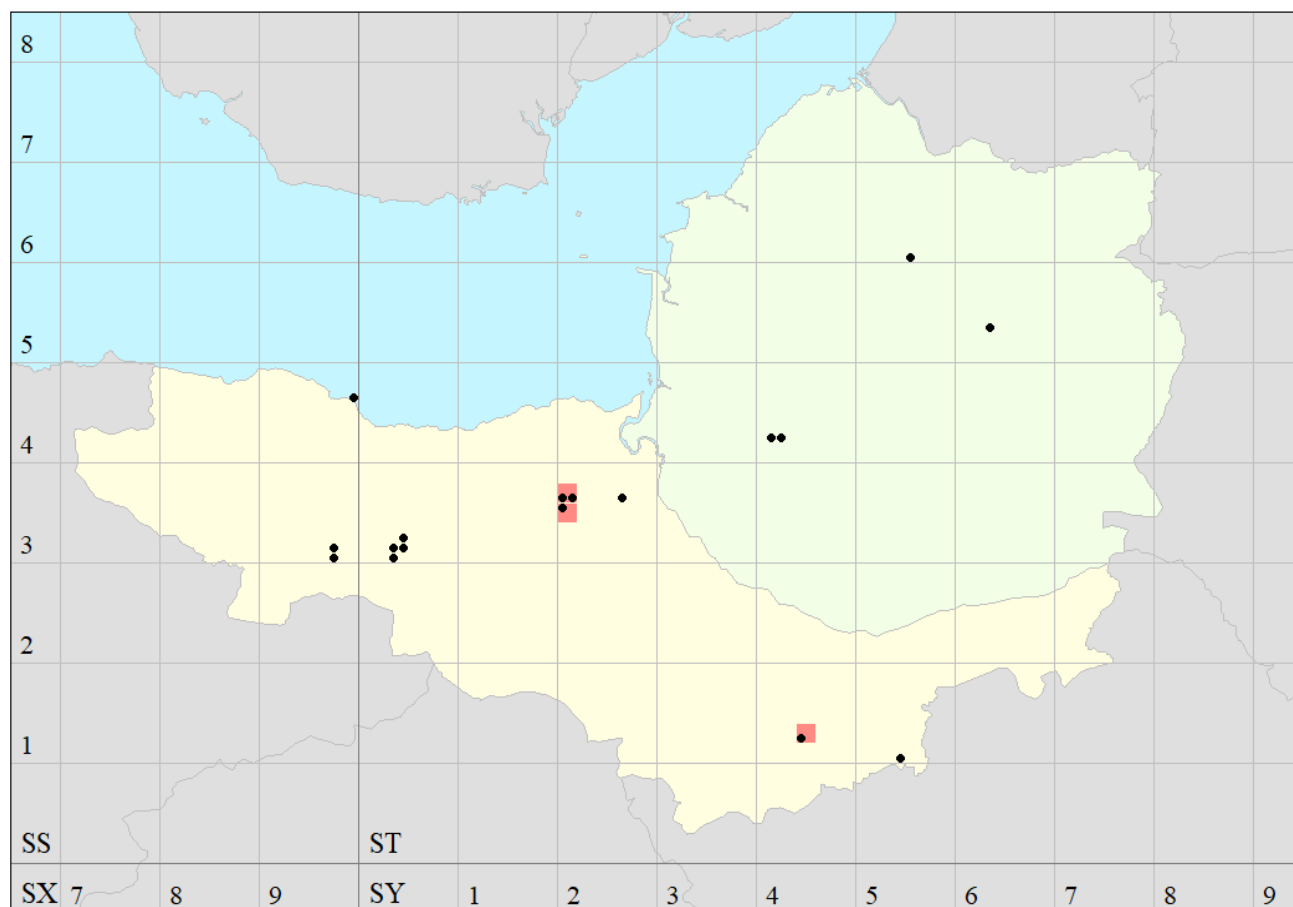
## Orange Foxtail

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Rare

An annual or perennial grass of drying mud on the margins of ponds, ditches, peat workings, reservoirs and other water bodies. In Somerset first noted (as *A. fulvus*) by Watson (1883) simply for "5 or 6 Somerset" with no authority. There were no further records for a century. In VC5 the first confirmed record was in 1985 when found at Scotts Nurseries, Merriott by R.B. and I.G. Roe. As a casual it was also recorded in 1985 at Wall Common (ST267450) by John Poingdestre. In 1990 Paul Green found this species on the drawdown zone of Hawkridge Reservoir. It has subsequently been recorded at Wimbleball Lake, Clatworthy Reservoir, Durleigh Reservoir and Sutton Bingham Reservoir. As a casual, it was recorded by John Poingdestre at Minehead Golf Links in 2003 on freshly excavated mud. In VC6, first recorded by the oxbow lake at Bathampton Meadows in 1999 by P.J. Pope, but unconfirmed. Recorded in 2000 by Helena Crouch and Joseph Neaves as a casual, probably introduced, beside a pond at Farrington Golf Course. In 2015 found by Rupert Higgins on the drawdown zone of Chew Valley Lake. In 2017 many plants were found in and around a peat void near Westhay. *Alopecurus aequalis* has been lost from some locations in central and south-east England, but appears to colonise newly available suitable sites. In Somerset its distribution has expanded since it was first found in 1985, although some sites have only been casual.



Distribution of *Alopecurus aequalis* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate.  
Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999 records

## VC5

Wimbleball Lake	SS977307	2000	IPG	On muddy, weedy bank, NE of causeway
Wimbleball Lake	SS973318	2000	IPG	Lots of plants around reservoir NE of road
Wimbleball Lake	SS976317	2003	SRPG	Plentiful on margins of lake
Minehead Golf Links	SS995460	2003	JP	1m <sup>2</sup> patch on fresh mud banked up on sea wall
Clatworthy Reservoir	ST032307	2000	IPG	Fairly plentiful around upper margin of reservoir
Clatworthy Reservoir	ST031308	2001	PRG, IPG	On shore of reservoir
Clatworthy Reservoir	ST037309	2003	SRPG	On upper reaches of water line
Clatworthy Reservoir	ST034304	2003	WB, TCGR	3 patches
Clatworthy Reservoir	ST0331	2001	SRPG	
Clatworthy Reservoir	ST047319	2001	PRG, IPG	On shore of reservoir
Clatworthy Reservoir	ST045323	2001	PRG, IPG	On shore of reservoir
Clatworthy Reservoir	ST0432	2016	SRPG	Few plants in flush where R. Tone enters lake
Hawkrigde Reservoir	ST20603599	2005	PRG, MLS	Shore of reservoir
Hawkrigde Reservoir	ST20623600	2005	PRG, MLS	Scattered along top of shore line
Hawkrigde Reservoir	ST20323598	2011	SRPG	500 pl along shore, to ST20583599
Hawkrigde Reservoir	ST20583599	2011	SRPG	500 pl along shore, to ST20323598
Hawkrigde Reservoir	ST20503602	2011	SRPG	100 pl along the shore, to ST20533606
Hawkrigde Reservoir	ST20533606	2011	SRPG	100 pl along the shore, to ST20503602
Hawkrigde Reservoir	ST20773610	2011	SRPG	500 plants
Hawkrigde Reservoir	ST21083643	2011	SRPG	Few plants on N shore, to ST21063643
Hawkrigde Reservoir	ST21063643	2011	SRPG	Few plants on N shore, to ST21083643
Durleigh Reservoir	ST26703614	2013	SRPG	A few plants at the top of drawdown zone
Merriott	ST449129	2006	JP	In damp hollow along track at Scotts Nursery
Sutton Bingham	ST54711047	2019	EJMcD, EMcD, AF	1 small pl in low draw-down zone of reservoir

## VC6

Westhay	ST41974234	2017	SRPG	Several pl on disturbed soil, S side of peat void
Westhay	ST41984233	2017	SRPG	Several pl on disturbed soil, S side of peat void
Westhay	ST41994232	2017	SRPG	Several pl on disturbed soil, S side of peat void
Westhay	ST41994233	2017	SRPG	Several pl on disturbed soil, S side of peat void
Westhay	ST42004232	2017	SRPG	Several pl on disturbed soil of peat void
Westhay	ST42014229	2017	SRPG	Several pl on disturbed soil of peat void
Westhay	ST42014230	2017	SRPG	Several pl on disturbed soil of peat void
Westhay	ST42014235	2017	SRPG	1 pl on disturbed soil, N edge of peat void
Westhay	ST42024229	2017	SRPG	Several pl on disturbed soil of peat void
Chew Valley Lake	SSSI ST55726027	2015	RJH	Edge of reservoir, in a few sites at Villice Bay
Farrington Park	ST632539	2000	HJC, JFN	Around pond at bottom end of golf course



*Alopecurus aequalis* at Hawkrigde Reservoir (2011). Photo: HJC