

TECHNICAL NOTES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PORTLAND, OREGON

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
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RANGE TECHNICAL NOTE NO. 22

A PARTIAL LIST OF VEGETATIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMON WESTERN WASHINGTON AND OREGON PASTURE AND HAYLAND GRASSES

Marty Chaney, Pasture Management Specialist with NRCS Washington compiled this field identification guide to common pasture and hayland grasses. The document lists grasses by a variety of morphological and growth habit features. Even though the document is geared towards western Oregon, many of these same species occur in abundance in eastern Oregon; the information should be useful there as well.

Range Technical Note # 21 “Common Grasses, Legumes, And Forbs Of Western Washington And Oregon Pastures And Haylands” may be used in conjunction with this document for identifying species in the field.

How to use the Vegetative Characteristics Grass Key:

This key is set up to use the process of elimination utilizing the characteristics grouped on the "Plant ID Characteristics" worksheet.

1	For your specimen, identify as many of the listed characteristics as you can (see Diagram of Characteristics worksheet for some illustrations of where to find the plant parts)
2	Characteristics for similar parts of the plant are color-coded the same in the key.
3	As you identify an increasing number of characteristics, there should be only a few species which are listed under every characteristic you were able to identify.
4	This list is your "short list" of potential species to which your specimen may belong.
5	On the second page, there are additional species characteristics. Always check these additional characteristics, since the tie-breaker may be there!
6	The typical Habitat for a species can be a good clue if you're not sure about your species ID. For instance, if you're in an upland pasture, and the typical habitat for a potential species is saline, estuary, then that is probably not the species that you are trying to identify!
7	Once you have a "short list" of possible species, refer to the companion Pasture Technical Note, Common Grasses of Western Washington, for illustrations and additional characteristics, or to other grass ID materials.
8	As a tie-breaker, general flowering times for MLRA's 1 & 2 have been included ("Flowering by Species" & "Flowering by Month" worksheets), but remember that spring flowering can be delayed by cold weather, and many species flower about the same time anyway.
9	The "Check List" worksheet lists all the characteristics by species.

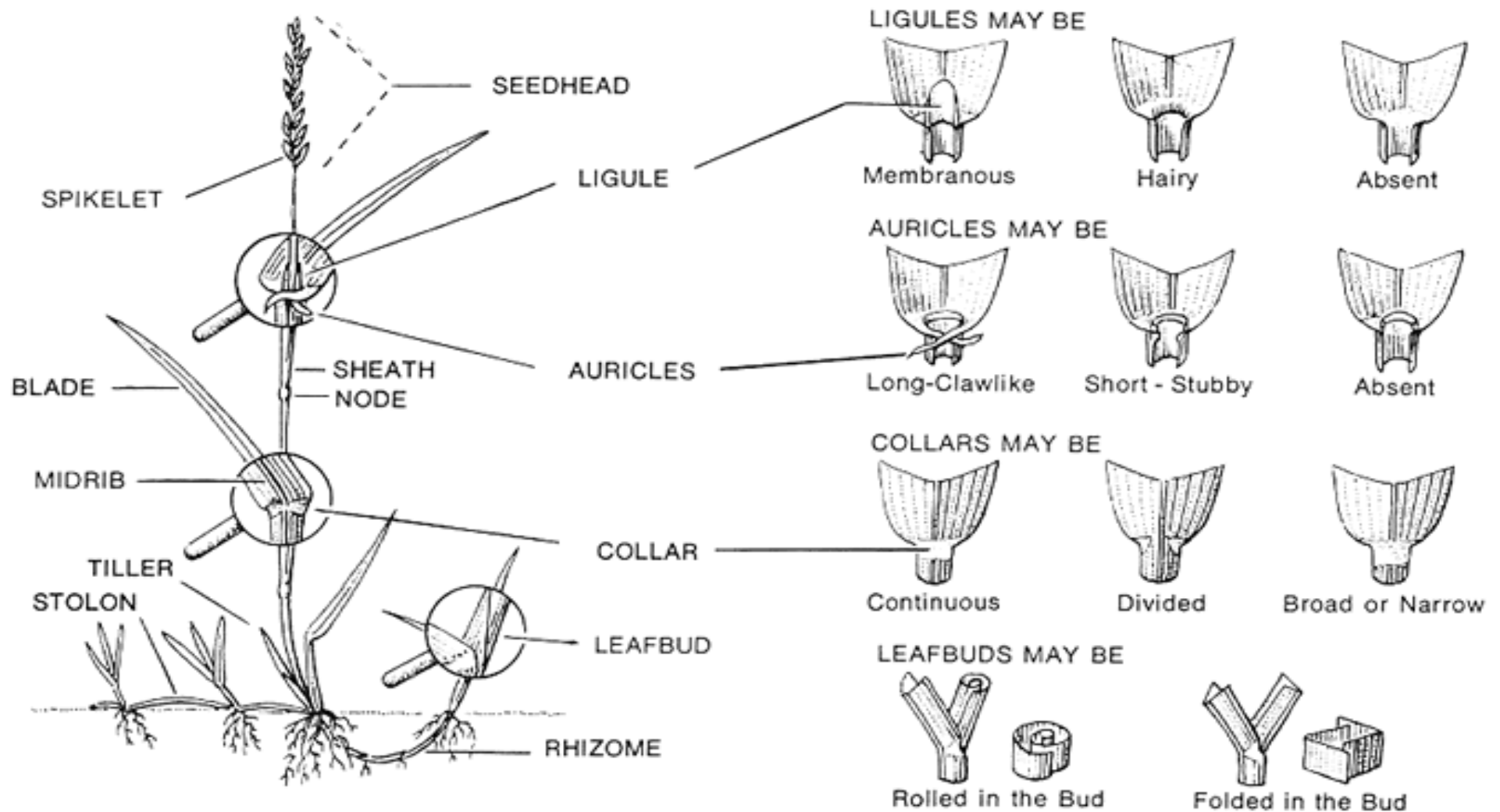
STEMS "BENT" AT NODE	LIGULE ('COLLAR') SHORT **	LEAVES ROUGH ON EDGES	HAIRY STEMS/LEAVES **	LEAF BACK HAS DISTINCT CENTRAL RIDGE
Barley, Meadow	Barley, Meadow	Beachgrass, European	Barley, Meadow (sometimes/lvs)	Bluegrasses
Barnyardgrass	Bluegrass, Canada	Bluegrass, Bulbous	Bristlegrass, Yellow (at base)	Cutgrass, Rice
Bentgrasses (most)	Bristlegrasses	Bluegrass, Rough-stalked	Bromes (often)	Fescue, Tall (only lower half)
Bluegrass, Fowl	Bromes, Annual	Bluejoint	Crabgrasses	Foxtail, Meadow
Bristlegrasses	Crabgrasses	Cutgrass, Rice	Junegrass, Prairie	Orchardgrass
Crabgrasses	Cutgrass, Rice	Darnel	Oatgrass, Tall (sometimes)	Ryegrasses
Foxtail, Water	Fescues	Dogtail, Annual	Oatgrasses, CA or Poverty	Timothy
Hairgrass, Silver	Quackgrass	Fescue, Tall	Quackgrass (usually)	LEAVES RELATIVELY BROAD
Oatgrass, Tall (often)	Ryegrass, Annual	Fescues, Fine & Roemer's	Rye, Cereal	Barley, Meadow
Velvetgrass, Creeping	Saltgrass	Foxtail, Meadow	Velvetgrass, Common	Beachgrass, European
	Wildryes	Hairgrass, Tufted	Velvetgrass, Creeping (nodes)	Bristlegrasses
LEAVES STRONGLY ROLLED	LIGULE MEDIUM (1.1mm-2.5mm)	Mannagrass, Western	Vernalgrass, Sweet (usually)	Bromes
Beachgrass, European	Bentgrass, Colonial	Saltgrass	Wheat	Canarygrass, Reed
Bluegrass, Seashore	Bluegrass, Annual & Bulbous		Wildrye, Dune (fine on leaves)	Crabgrasses
Fescues, Annual	Bluegrass, Kentucky & Seashore	PROW-SHAPED LEAF TIP		Cutgrass, Rice
Fescues, Fine & Roemer's	Cordgrass	Bluegrasses	SOD-FORMING	Fescue, Meadow
Hairgrass, Silver	Crabgrasses	Junegrass, Prairie	Beachgrass, European	Fescue, Tall
Hairgrass, Tufted (often)	Darnel	Mannagrass, Western	Bentgrasses	Foxtail, Meadow
Junegrass, Prairie	Dogtail, Crested	Orchardgrass	Bluegrass, Canada (often)	Mannagrass, Western
LEAF SHEATH FLAT (compressed)	Hairgrass, Silver	Ryegrass, Perennial	Bluegrass, Kentucky	Oatgrass, Tall
Barnyardgrass (& keeled)	Junegrass, Prairie		Bluegrass, Seashore	Orchardgrass
Bluegrass, Annual (& keeled)	Oatgrass, Tall	AURICLES ("EARS") PRESENT*	Bluejoint	Quackgrass
Bluegrass, Canada	Ryegrass, Perennial	Bromes (some)	Canarygrass, Reed	Ryegrass, Annual
Bluegrass, Fowl (& keeled)	Timothy	Darnel	Cordgrass	Sloughgrass
Bluegrass, Kentucky	Velvetgrasses	Fescue, Meadow (no hairs)	Cutgrass, Rice	Timothy
Bluegrass, Rough-stalked (& keeled)	Vernalgrasses	Fescue, Tall (hairs)	Fescues, Fine (sometimes)	Velvetgrasses
Mannagrass, Western		Quackgrass	Mannagrass, Western	Vernalgrass, Sweet
Orchardgrass (& keeled)	LIGULE LONG (>2.5mm)	Ryegrasses	Quackgrass	Wildrye(s)
Ryegrass, Perennial (turf types)	Beachgrass, European	Vernalgrasses (long hairs)	Saltgrass	NODES ON STEMS HAIRY
Yellow Bristlegrass	Bentgrasses, Redtop & Creeping	Wildrye, Blue	Sedges & Rushes (many)	Cutgrass, Rice
CLOSED LEAF SHEATH	Bluegrass, Fowl & Roughstalked	Wildrye, Dune (often)	Velvetgrass, Creeping	Oatgrass, Tall (often)
Bromes	Bluejoint	Many cereals (see p. 2)	Wildrye, Dune	Velvetgrass, Creeping
Mannagrass	Bromes, Perennial			
Orchardgrass	Canarygrass, Reed	LEAVES GROW UP THE STEM	STEM BULBLIKE @ BASE	PLANT ANNUAL
LEAVES SHINY (usually)	Dogtail, Annual	(rather than just from base)	Bluegrass, Bulbous	Barnyardgrass
Bluegrass, Canada	Foxtails, Meadow & Water	(all seedhead stems do this)	Oatgrass, Tall (often)	Bluegrass, Annual
Bluegrass, Kentucky	Hairgrass, Tufted	Barley, Meadow	Timothy	Bristlegrasses
Fescues, Fine (with high nitrogen)	Mannagrass, Western	Bentgrasses		Bromes, Annual
Fescues, Tall & Meadow	Orchardgrass	Bluegrass, Rough-Stalked	SEEDS APPEAR DIRECTLY ATTACHED TO MAIN STEM	Crabgrasses
Oatgrass, Tall (stem only)	Sloughgrass	Bluejoint		Darnel
Ryegrasses	Vernalgrass, Sweet	Bristlegrasses	Barley, Meadow	Dogtail, Annual
Sedges & Rushes	LIGULE POINTED	Bromes	Beachgrass, European	Fescues, Annual
LONG HAIRS @ COLLARS	Beachgrass, European	Canarygrass, Reed	Bristlegrasses	Hairgrass, Silver
Bristlegrasses	Bluegrass, Rough-stalked	Cordgrass	Darnel	Ryegrass, Annual (often lives 2-3 years)
Junegrass, Prairie	Canarygrass, Reed (usually)	Crabgrasses	Dogtails	Sloughgrass
Oatgrasses, CA or Poverty	Foxtail, Water	Cutgrass, Rice	Foxtail, Meadow	Vernalgrass, Annual
Perennial Bromes	Hairgrass, Silver	Foxtails	Foxtail, Water	Cereals ***
Saltgrass	Hairgrass, Tufted	Mannagrass, Western	Junegrass, Prairie	
Sweet & Annual Vernalgrasses	Mannagrass, Western	Oatgrass, Tall	Quackgrass	LIGULE LONGEST ON SIDES
Woodrush (no real collar)	Orchardgrass (often)	Quackgrass	Ryegrasses	Fescues, Annual
LIGULE A FRINGE OF HAIRS	Sloughgrass	Saltgrass	Sloughgrass	Fescues, Fine & Roemer's
Barnyardgrass	STEMS CAN ROOT @ LOWER NODES	Sloughgrass	Timothy	Junegrass, Prairie
Bristlegrasses	Barnyardgrass	Timothy	Velvetgrasses	
Cordgrass	Bentgrass, Creeping	STEMS SOLID (not hollow)	Vernalgrasses	
Oatgrasses, CA or Poverty	Bluegrass, Fowl	Saltgrass	Wildryes (2-3 spikelets/node)	* Auricles may be gone on older leaves
	Crabgrasses	Rushes	NO COLLAR OR LIGULE	** This characteristic may be shorter on
LIGULE HAIRY	Foxtail, Meadow	Sedges	Sedges & Rushes	early spring or fall regrowth
Bluegrass, Seashore	Oatgrass, Tall	Woodrush	Woodrushes	*** for characteristics, see back of page

Common Name	Scientific Name	HABITAT *	NUMBER OF FLORETS (FLOWERS) PER SPIKELET				
Barnyardgrass	<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>	U,T,W	1	3	MISC. CHARACTERISTICS		
Barley, Meadow	<i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i>	S, T, W	Barnyardgrass	Barley	"M" constriction on upper part of leaf- Bromes		
Beachgrass, European	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	S	Beachgrass, European	Barley, Meadow	and sometimes Quackgrass		
Bentgrass, Colonial	<i>Agrostis capillaris (tenuis) type</i>	U, T, W	Bentgrasses	Bluegrasses	Leaf sheath hairy @ collar throat: Perennial bromes,		
Bentgrass, Creeping	<i>Agrostis stolonifera type</i>	U, T, W	Bluejoint	Canarygrass, Reed	Cordgrass & Woodrush		
Bentgrass, Redtop	<i>Agrostis gigantea (alba) type</i>	U, T, W	CA & Poverty Oatgrasses	Dogtail, Crested	"Crinkles" on upper leaf - Orchardgrass,		
Bluegrass, Annual	<i>Poa annua</i>	U, T, W	Canarygrass, Reed	Fescues	Annual Bluegrass & Barnyardgrass		
Bluegrass, Bulbous	<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	U	(really 3, 2 very small)	Junegrass	Stems hollow, easily crushed - Tall Oatgrass		
Bluegrass, Canada	<i>Poa compressa</i>	U, T	Crabgrass (really 2,	Oats	Leaves wide, usually wrap 180 degrees		
Bluegrass, Fowl	<i>Poa palustris</i>	T, W	1 sterile)	Orchardgrass	around stem - Timothy & Tall Oatgrass		
Bluegrass, Kentucky	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	U, T	Cutgrass, Rice	Saltgrass	(Meadow/water foxtail < than 180 degrees)		
Bluegrass, Rough-Stalked	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	U, T	Meadow & Water Foxtail	Vernalgrasses	Seedhead branches "palmate" - Crabgrass		
Bluegrass, Seashore	<i>Poa macrantha</i>	S	Sloughgrass	Wheat	Cobwebby hairs @ seed bases -		
Bluejoint	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	W	Timothy	Wildryes	all bluegrasses except Canada bluegrass &		
Bristlegrass, Green	<i>Setaria viridis</i>	U	2		Annual bluegrass		
Bristlegrass, Yellow	<i>Setaria lutescens</i>	U	Bluegrasses	3+	No awns on spikelets - Bluegrasses		
Brome, Annual	<i>Bromus spp.</i>	U, T	Bristlegrasses	Bluegrasses	Leaves have twist - Quackgrass (often);		
Brome, Perennial	<i>Bromus spp.</i>	U, T	CA & Poverty Oatgrasses	Bromes	Crested dogtail, & cereals (see below)		
Canarygrass, Reed	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	(U), T, W	Dogtail, Annual	Cereal Rye	Seedhead florets have "bulblets" -		
Cordgrass	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	S	Fescues	Fescues	Bulbous Bluegrass		
Crabgrass	<i>Digitaria sanguinalis & ischaemum</i>	U(san),TW(isc)	Hairgrass (Aira)	Junegrass, Prairie	2 distinct veins @ leaf midrib (Railroad tracks):		
Cutgrass, Rice	<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	W	Hairgrass, Tufted	Orchardgrass	Kentucky, Canada, Annual, Fowl bluegrasses		
Darnel	<i>Lolium temulentum</i>	U, T	Junegrass	Quackgrass	Old leaf sheaths persist and "shred":		
Dogtail, Annual	<i>Cynosaurus echinatus</i>	U	Oatgrass, Tall	Ryegrasses	Roemer's fescue, some red fescues		
Dogtail, Crested	<i>Cynosaurus cristatus</i>	U	Oats	Saltgrass	Red color at stem base: Bardyardgrass, Ryegrasses,		
Fescue, Fine	<i>Festuca rubra (usually)</i>	U, T	Saltgrass	West.Mannagrass	Tall fescue (sometimes)		
Fescue, Meadow	<i>Schedonorus (Festuca) pratensis</i>	U, T, W	Velvetgrasses	Wheat	Annual vernalgrass has long awns on florets;		
Fescue, Roemer's	<i>Festuca roemerii</i>	P	Wheat	Wildryes	Sweet Vernalgrass has shorter awns		
Fescue, Tall	<i>Schedonorus (Festuca) arundinaceus</i>	U, T, W	Wildryes		Annual vernalgrass mostly 1-3 dm. tall,		
Fescues, Annual	<i>Vulpia spp.</i>	U, T			Sweet Vernalgrass mostly 3-6 dm. tall		
Foxtail, Meadow	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	(U), T, W	NUMBER OF SPIKELETS/NODE ON RACHIS		Leaves on a stem all in one plane: Saltgrass		
Foxtail, Water	<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	W	Barley	3	Darnel has the longest awns of all the Loliums		
Hairgrass, Silver	<i>Aira caryophylla</i>	U, T, W	Barley, Meadow	3			
Hairgrass, Tufted	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	W	Cereal Rye	1			
Junegrass, Prairie	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	P	Darnel	1			
Mannagrass, Western	<i>Glyceria occidentalis</i>	W	Quackgrass	1			
Oatgrass, California/Poverty	<i>Danthonia californica or spicata</i>	P	Ryegrasses	1			
Oatgrass, Tall	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	U	Wheat	1			
Orchardgrass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	U, T	Wildryes	2			
Quackgrass	<i>Elymus (Agropyron) repens</i>	U, T,W					
Rushes	<i>Juncus spp. (not a grass!)</i>	U, T, W	CEREAL ID CHARACTERISTICS				
Ryegrass, Annual	<i>Lolium perenne spp. multiflorum</i>	U, T	SPECIES	LIGULE LENGTH	AURICLE PRESENT?	HAIRY?	LEAF TWIST
Ryegrass, Perennial	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	U, T					(from above)
Saltgrass	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	S	Barley	medium	long	no	clockwise
Sedges	<i>Carex spp. (not a grass!)</i>	U, T, W, S, P	Oats	medium	no	no	counter-clockwise
Sloughgrass	<i>Beckmannia syzigachne</i>	W	Rye, Cereal	short	short	yes	clockwise
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	T, W	Wheat	medium	short, narrow, hairy	yes	clockwise
Velvetgrass, Common	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	U, T, W	* Typical Habitat: U = Upland S = Saline, estuary areas T = Transition between U and W W = Wetland P = Prairie native species - Usually found only with native veg.				
Velvetgrass, Creeping	<i>Holcus mollis</i>	U, T, W					
Vernalgrass, Annual	<i>Anthoxanthum aristatum</i>	U, T, W					
Vernalgrass, Sweet	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	U, T, W					
Wildrye, Blue	<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	U					
Wildrye, Dune	<i>Leymus mollis</i>	S					
Woodrush	<i>Luzula campestris (not a grass!)</i>	U, P					
Cereals:			Note: many annual species will occur in wetlands during dry seasons				
Barley	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	U, T, S					
Cereal Rye	<i>Secale cereale</i>	T, W					
Oats	<i>Avena sativa</i>	U, T, W					
Wheat	<i>Triticum vulgare</i>	U, T					
			Developed by: Marty Chaney, Pasture Management Specialist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Olympia, WA 8/14				

Common Name	Scientific Name	Stems Bent at Node	Leaves Strongly Rolled	Flat Leaf Sheath	Closed Leaf Sheath	Leaves Shiny (usually)	Stems Root @ Lower Nodes	Ligule A Fringe of Hairs	Ligule Hairy	Ligule ("Collar") Short	Ligule Medium	Ligule Long**	Ligule Pointed	Long Hairs @ Collars	Leaves Rough on Edges	Prow-Shaped Leaf Tip	Auricles ("ears") Present	Leaves Grow up the Stem	No Ligule	Stems Solid (not hollow)	Hairy Stems/Leaves	Sod-Forming	Stem Bulblike @ Base	Seeds Seem Directly Attached to Main Stem	Leaf Back has Distinct Central Ridge	Leaves Relatively Broad	Nodes on Stems Hairy	Plant Annual	No Collar	Ligule longest on sides	Habitat	Number of Florets (flowers) per Spikelet	Number of Spikelets/Node on Rachis
Barley, Meadow	<i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i>	X								X								X			X			X		X					S,T,W	3	3
Barnyardgrass	<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>			X				X																				X			U,T,W	1	
Beachgrass, European	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>		X					X				X	X		X							X		X		X					S	1	
Bentgrass, Colonial	<i>Agrostis capillaris (tenuis)</i>	X									X							X				X									U,T,W,P	1	
Bentgrass, Creeping	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	X					X					X						X				X									U,T,W,P	1	
Bentgrass, Redtop	<i>Agrostis stolonifera (alba)</i>	X										X						X				X									U,T,W,P	1	
Bluegrass, Annual	<i>Poa annua</i>			X							X					X												X			U,T,W	2,3+	
Bluegrass, Bulbous	<i>Poa bulbosa</i>										X				X	X							X		X						U	2,3+	
Bluegrass, Canada	<i>Poa compressa</i>			X		X				X												X			X						U,T	2,3+	
Bluegrass, Fowl	<i>Poa palustris</i>			X			X					X													X						T,W	2,3+	
Bluegrass, Kentucky	<i>Poa pratensis</i>			X		X					X											X			X						U,T	2,3+	
Bluegrass, Rough-Stalked	<i>Poa trivialis</i>			X								X	X		X	X		X							X						U,T	2,3+	
Bluegrass, Seashore	<i>Poa macrantha</i>		X						X		X						X					X			X						S	2,3+	
Bluejoint	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>											X			X			X				X											
Bristlegrass, Green	<i>Setaria viridis</i>	X						X		X				X				X						X		X		X			U	2	
Bristlegrass, Yellow	<i>Setaria lutescens</i>	X		X				X		X				X				X						X		X		X			U	2	
Brome, Annual	<i>Bromus spp.</i>				X					X								X			X					X					U	3+	
Brome, Perennial	<i>Bromus spp.</i>				X							X		X				X			X					X					U,T	3+	
Canarygrass, Reed	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>											X	X					X				X				X					(U),T,W	1,3	
Cordgrass	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>							X										X				X											
Crabgrasses	<i>Digitaria sanguinalis & ischaemum</i>	X					X			X	X							X			X					X		X			U(san),TW(Isc)	1	
Cutgrass, Rice	<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>									X					X			X				X				X	X	X			W	1	
Darnel	<i>Lolium temulentum</i>										X				X		X								X								1
Dogtail, Annual	<i>Cynosaurus echinatus</i>														X									X				X					
Dogtail, Crested	<i>Cynosaurus cristatus</i>										X													X									3
Fescue, Annual	<i>Vulpia spp.</i>		X							X																		X		X	U,T	2,3,3+	
Fescue, Fine	<i>Festuca rubra (usually)</i>		X			X				X					X							X								X	U,T	2,3,3+	
Fescue, Meadow	<i>Festuca pratensis</i>									X							X									X					U,T,W,P	2,3,3+	
Fescue, Roemer's	<i>Festuca roemerii</i>		X																											X			
Fescue, Tall	<i>Schedonorus (Festuca) arundinaceus</i>					X				X					X		X								X	X					U,T,W	2,3,3+	
Foxtail, Meadow	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>						X					X			X			X						X	X	X					(U),T,W	1	
Foxtail, Water	<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	X										X	X					X						X							W	1	
Hairgrass, Silver	<i>Aira caryophyllea</i>	X	X								X		X															X			U,T,W	2	
Hairgrass, Tufted	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>		X									X	X		X																W	2	
Junegrass, Prairie	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>		X								X			X		X					X			X							P	3+	
Mannagrass, Western	<i>Glyceria occidentalis</i>			X	X							X	X		X	X		X				X				X					W	3+	
Oatgrass, California or poverty	<i>Danthonia californica or spicata</i>							X						X							X										P	1,2	
Oatgrass, Tall	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	X				X	X				X							X			X		X			X	X				P,U	2	
Orchardgrass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>			X	X							X	X				X								X	X					U,T	3,3+	
Quackgrass	<i>Elymus (Agropyron) repens</i>									X							X	X			X	X		X		X					U,T	3+	1
Rushes	<i>Juncus spp. (not a grass!)</i>																		X	X		X							X		U,T,W		
Ryegrass, Annual	<i>Lolium perenne v. multiflorum</i>					X				X							X								X	X	X		X		U,T	3+	1
Ryegrass, Perennial	<i>Lolium perenne</i>			X		X					X						X	X						X	X						U,T	3+	1
Saltgrass	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>									X				X	X																S	2,3	
Sedges	<i>Carex spp. (not a grass!)</i>																		X	X		X							X		U,T,W,S,P		
Sloughgrass	<i>Beckmannia syzigachne</i>											X	X					X						X		X		X			W	1	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Stems Bent at Node	Leaves Strongly Rolled	Flat Leaf Sheath	Closed Leaf Sheath	Leaves Shiny (usually)	Stems Root @ Lower Nodes	Ligule A Fringe of Hairs	Ligule Hairy	Ligule ("Collar") Short	Ligule Medium	Ligule Long**	Ligule Pointed	Long Hairs @ Collars	Leaves Rough on Edges	Prow-Shaped Leaf Tip	Auricles ("ears") Present	Leaves Grow up the Stem	No Ligule	Stems Solid (not hollow)	Hairy Stems/Leaves	Sod-Forming	Stem Bulblike @ Base	Seeds Seem Directly Attached to Main Stem	Leaf Back has Distinct Central Ridge	Leaves Relatively Broad	Nodes on Stems Hairy	Plant Annual	No Collar	Ligule longest on sides	Habitat	Number of Florets (flowers) per Spikelet	Number of Spikelets/Node on Rachis	
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>										X							X				X		X	X	X					T,W	1		
Velvetgrass, Common	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>										X										X			X		X					U,T,W	2		
Velvetgrass, Creeping	<i>Holcus mollis</i>										X										X	X				X	X				U,T,W	2		
Vernalgrass, Annual	<i>Anthoxanthum aristatum</i>										X			X			X							X				X						
Vernalgrass, Sweet	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>										X			X			X				X			X							U,T,W	3		
Wildrye, Blue	<i>Elymus glaucus</i>									X							X							X		X					U	2,3,3+	2	
Wildrye, Dune	<i>Elymus mollis</i>									X							X				X	X		X		X					S	2,3,3+	2	
Woodrush	<i>Luzula campestris (not a grass!)</i>													X					X	X									X		U			
Cereals:																																		
Barley	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>									X							X											X				U, T, S		3
Cereal Rye	<i>Secale cereale</i>									X							X				X							X				T, W		1
Oats	<i>Avena sativa</i>											X																X				U, T, W		
Wheat	<i>Triticum vulgare</i>										X						X				X							X				U, T		1

Parts of a grass plant



Examples of seedheads



Panicle: Triangular in outline with seeding branches around the main stem. Examples: Bluegrass, Redtop.



Spike: Spikelets attached at the top of an unbranched stem. Examples: Timothy, Foxtail



Slender seeding spikes attached at the top of the main stem. Examples: Crabgrass, Goosegrass



Slender seeding spikes attached along the top of the main stem. Examples: Signalgrass, Dallisgrass

Examples of spikelets



Forming clusters of seeds. Examples: Bluegrass, Ryegrass



With long pointed awns. Examples: Nimblewill, Wild Oats



Born singly on short branches. Examples: Witchgrass, Fall Panicum



Containing several seeds. Examples: Sandbur, Buffalograss

Typical seedhead emergence period for various grasses in MLRA A1 and A2

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			~~~~~ = typical period				?????? = likely period								
		Feb.	March		April		May		June		July		August		Sept.
Common Name	Scientific Name	2nd half	1st half	2nd half	1st half	2nd half	1st half	2nd half	1st half	2nd half	1st half	2nd half	1st half	2nd half	1st half
Bentgrass	<i>Agrostis spp.</i>				~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~				
Hairgrass, Silver	<i>Aira caryophyllea</i>				~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~							
Foxtail, Water	<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>							~~~~~	~~~~~						
Foxtail, Meadow	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>				~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~								
Vernalgrass, Annual	<i>Anthoxanthum aristatum</i>			~~~~~	~~~~~										
Sweet Vernalgrass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>			~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~									
Oatgrass, Tall	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>							~~~~~	~~~~~						
Sloughgrass	<i>Beckmannia syzigachne</i>									??????	??????				
Brome, Alaska	<i>Bromus sitchensis</i>					~~~~~	~~~~~								
Brome, Annual	<i>Bromus spp.</i>					~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~							
Bluejoint	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>									~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~			
Crested Dogtail	<i>Cynosaurus cristatus</i>							~~~~~	~~~~~						
Orchardgrass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>					~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~							
Oatgrass, California or Poverty	<i>Danthonia californica or spicata</i>					~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~							
Hairgrass, Tufted	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>								??????	~~~~~	~~~~~				
Crabgrass	<i>Digitaria sanguinalis &amp; ischaemum</i>											~~~~~	~~~~~		
Saltgrass	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>									??????	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~		
Barnyardgrass	<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>									??????	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~		
Quackgrass	<i>Elymus (Agropyron) repens</i>								~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~				
Wildrye, Blue	<i>Elymus glaucus</i>								~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~				
Wildrye, Dune	<i>Elymus mollis</i>									~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	??????		
Fescue, Roemer's	<i>Festuca roemerii</i>						??????	~~~~~	~~~~~						
Fescue, Fine	<i>Festuca rubra (usually)</i>							~~~~~	~~~~~						
Mannagrass, Western	<i>Glyceria occidentalis</i>								??????	??????					
Velvetgrass, Common	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>						~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~						
Velvetgrass, Creeping	<i>Holcus mollis</i>							??????	??????						
Barley, Meadow	<i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i>								??????	~~~~~	~~~~~				
Prairie Junegrass	<i>Koeleria cristata</i>						??????	??????	??????						
Rice Cutgrass	<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>									~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~			
Ryegrass, Perennial	<i>Lolium perenne</i>					~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~							
Ryegrass, Annual	<i>Lolium perenne v. multiflorum</i>					~~~~~	~~~~~								
Darnel	<i>Lolium temulentum</i>					~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~							
Canarygrass, Reed	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>							~~~~~	~~~~~						
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>								~~~~~	~~~~~					
Bluegrass, Annual	<i>Poa annua</i>	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~							
Bluegrass, Bulbous	<i>Poa bulbosa</i>			~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~									
Bluegrass, Canada	<i>Poa compressa</i>							~~~~~	~~~~~						
Bluegrass, Kentucky	<i>Poa pratensis</i>							~~~~~	~~~~~						
Bluegrass, Rough-Stalked	<i>Poa trivialis</i>						~~~~~	~~~~~							

Typical seedhead emergence period for various grasses in MLRA A1 and A2															
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Fescue, Tall	<i>Schedonorus (Festuca) arundinaceus</i>				~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~								
Bristlegrass, Yellow	<i>Setaria lutescens</i>										~~~~~				
Bristlegrass, Green	<i>Setaria viridis</i>										~~~~~				
Cordgrass	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>												~~~~~	~~~~~	?????
Fescue, Annual	<i>Vulpia spp.</i>					~~~~~	~~~~~								

Typical seedhead emergence period for various grasses in MLRA A1 and A2

NOTE!! Variable spring temperatures can shift these dates earlier or later by 2 weeks or more. Also, as you move from north to south through the MLRAs, dates can move 2-3 weeks earlier, and higher elevations will often lag behind and grass seedheads will emerge 1-2 weeks later.

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Bluegrass, Annual	<i>Poa annua</i>	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~							
Sweet Vernalgrass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>			~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~									
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Quackgrass	<i>Elymus (Agropyron) repens</i>								~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~				
Wildrye, Blue	<i>Elymus glaucus</i>								~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~				
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>								~~~~~	~~~~~					

## Typical seedhead emergence period for various grasses in MLRA A1 and A2

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