

TECHNICAL NOTE

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Spokane, WA

PASTURE TECHNICAL NOTE 102

AUGUST 2010

COMMON GRASSES OF WESTERN WASHINGTON

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Scientific Name

Agrostis capillaris

Common Name

Bentgrass, Colonial

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Rhizomes Or Stolons -
Sod-Forming**

Leaf Blade Flat

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 2-5

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 1-2

Stems Bent

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 1

Bloom Period June-July

Salinity Tolerance Moderate

Habitat Low Fertility, Low pH,
Prairie, Transitional
between Upland and
Wetland, Upland,
Wetland



Scientific Name

Agrostis gigantea

Common Name

Bentgrass, Redtop

Citation:

Illustration by Sandy Long, copied with permission from <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/>

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 3-8

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 2-6

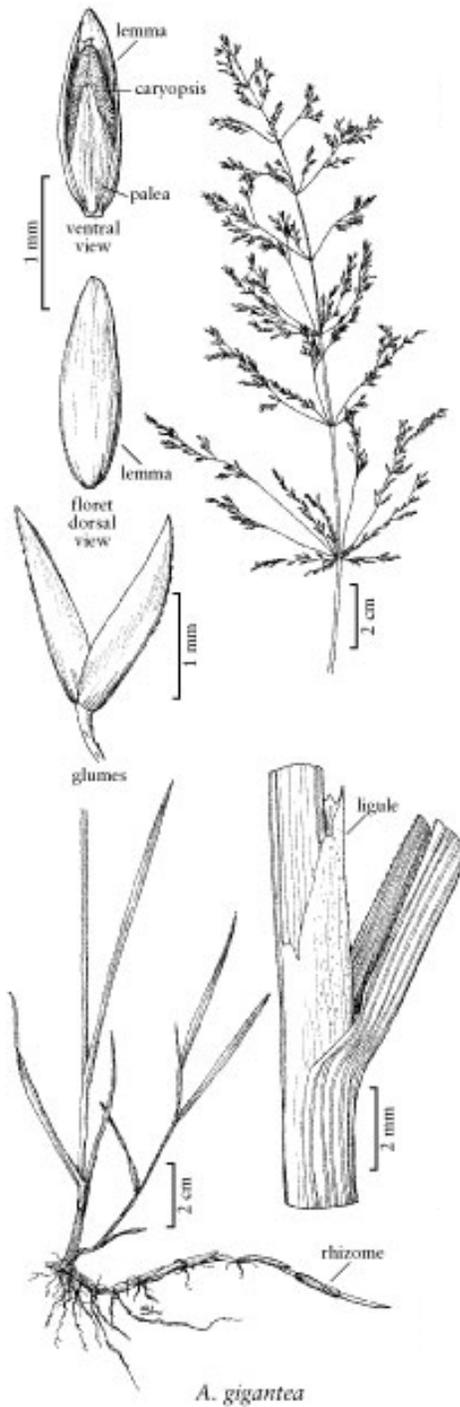
Stems Bent

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 1

Bloom Period June-July

Salinity Tolerance Low

Habitat Prairie, Transitional
between Upland and
Wetland, Upland,
Wetland



A. gigantea

Scientific Name

Agrostis stolonifera

Common Name

Bentgrass, Creeping

Citation:

Illustration by Sandy Long, copied with permission from <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/> Ligule from: Hitchcock-Chase Collection of Grass Drawings, courtesy of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa., on indefinite loan from the Smithsonian Institution. Accession Number: 6010.0071

Introduced

Plant Perennial

Rhizomes Or Stolons - Sod-Forming

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaf Axils Viviparous

Leaves Grow Up The Stem

Leaves Not Hairy

Ligule (Collar) Length (mm) 3-6

Stems Bent

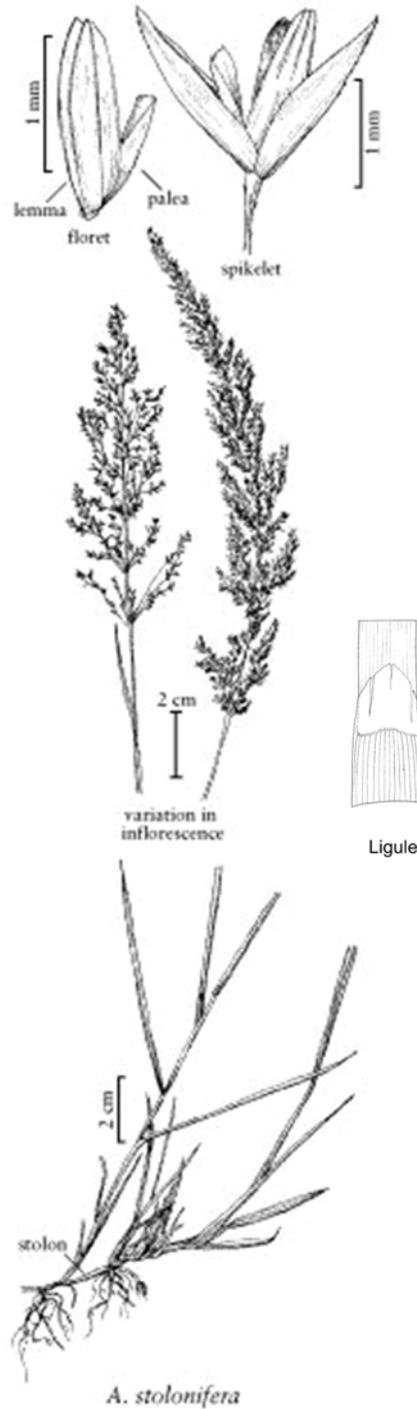
Stems Root At Lower Nodes

Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet 1

Bloom Period June-July

Salinity Tolerance Moderate

Habitat Low Fertility, Low pH, Prairie, Transitional between Upland and Wetland, Upland, Wetland



Scientific Name

Aira caryophyllea

Common Name

Hairgrass, Silver

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
 Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
 Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
 Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Annual

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaves Not Hairy

**Leaves Strongly
Rolled/Threadlike**

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 0.5

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 1-4

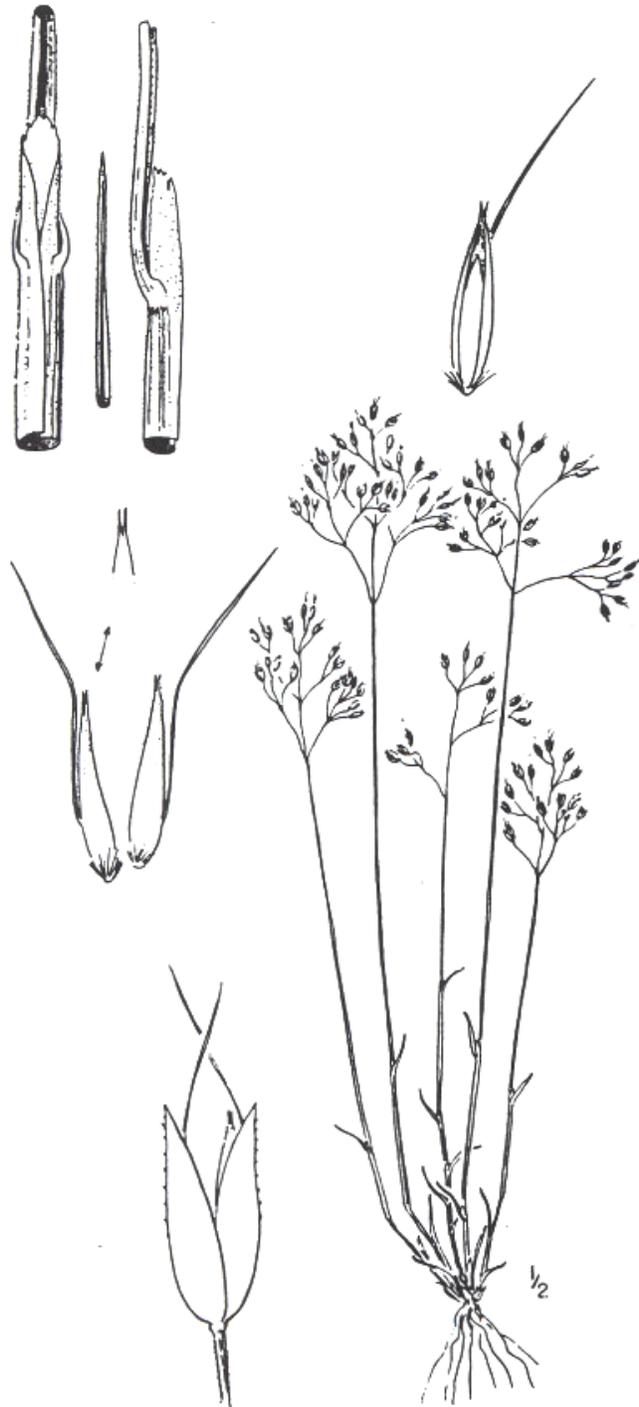
Ligule Pointed

Stems Bent

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2

Bloom Period April

Habitat Prairie, Transitional
 between Upland and
 Wetland, Upland,
 Wetland



Scientific Name

Alopecurus geniculatus

Common Name

Foxtail, Water

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
 Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
 Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
 Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 2-6

**Leaf Sheath Often
Inflated**

**Leaf Sheath Wraps Less
Than Halfway Around
Stem**

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 3-5

Ligule Pointed

Stems Bent

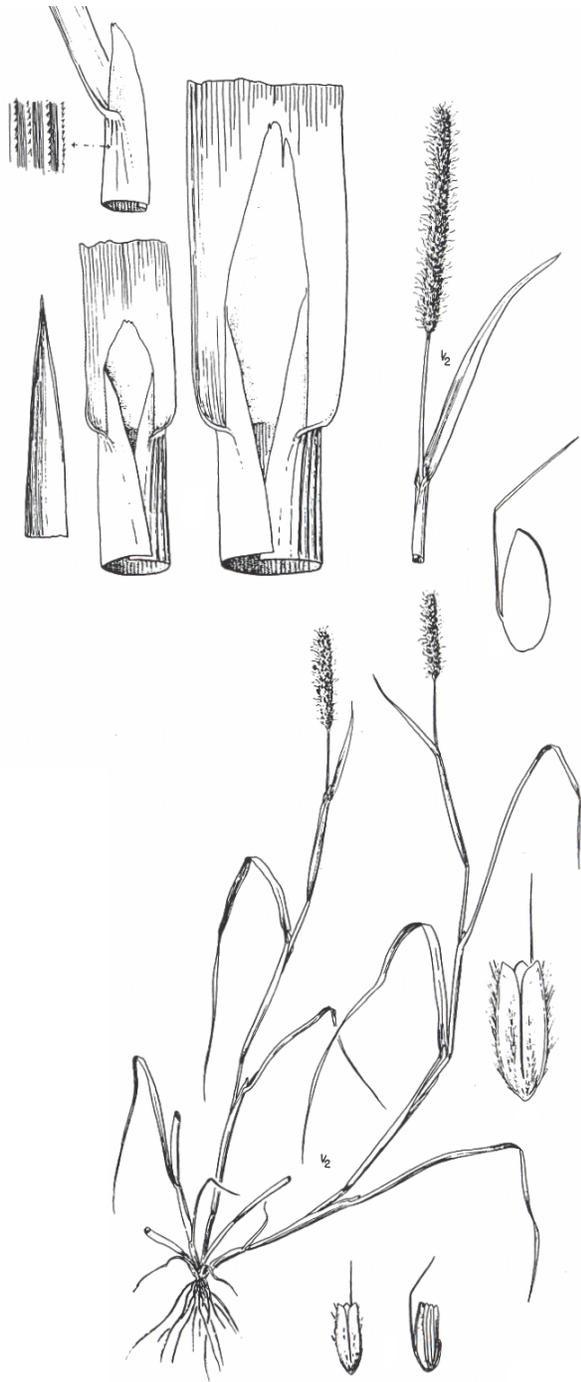
**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 1

**Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem**

Bloom Period May-June

Salinity Tolerance Low

Habitat Wetland



Scientific Name

Alopecurus pratensis

Common Name

Foxtail, Meadow

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
 Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
 Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
 Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

**Leaf Back Has Distinct
Central Ridge**

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Rough On Edges

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 3-10

**Leaf Sheath Often
Inflated**

**Leaf Sheath Wraps Less
Than Halfway Around
Stem**

**Leaf Sheath Doesn't
Overlap In Front**

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 2-6

Stems Bent

**Stems Root At Lower
Nodes**

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 1

**Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem**

Bloom Period April-May

Salinity Tolerance Low

Habitat Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Upland, Wetland



Scientific Name

Ammophila arenaria

Common Name

Beachgrass, European

Citation:

Illustration by Linda A. Vorobik and Hana Pazdírková,
copied with permission from
<http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/>

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Rhizomes Or Stolons -
Sod-Forming**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Rough On Edges

**Leaves Strongly
Rolled/Threadlike**

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 2-4

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 10-25

Ligule Pointed

Stems Bent

**Seeds With Cobwebby
Base**

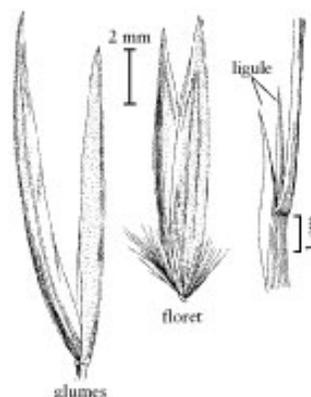
**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 1

**Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem**

Bloom Period June-August

Salinity Tolerance High

Habitat Saline



A. arenaria subsp. arenaria



AMMOPHILA

Scientific Name

Anthoxanthum aristatum

Common Name

Vernalgrass, Annual

Citation:

USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. Vol. 1: 171.

Introduced

Plant Annual

Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 2.0

Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm) 0.5-2

Auricles (Ears) Present -
Short

Seedhead Has Long
Awns

Bloom Period April-May

Habitat Low Fertility, Low pH,
Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Upland



Scientific Name

Anthoxanthum odoratum

Common Name

Vernalgrass, Sweet

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 3-7

Collar With Long Hairs

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 2-3

**Auricles (Ears) Present -
Long**

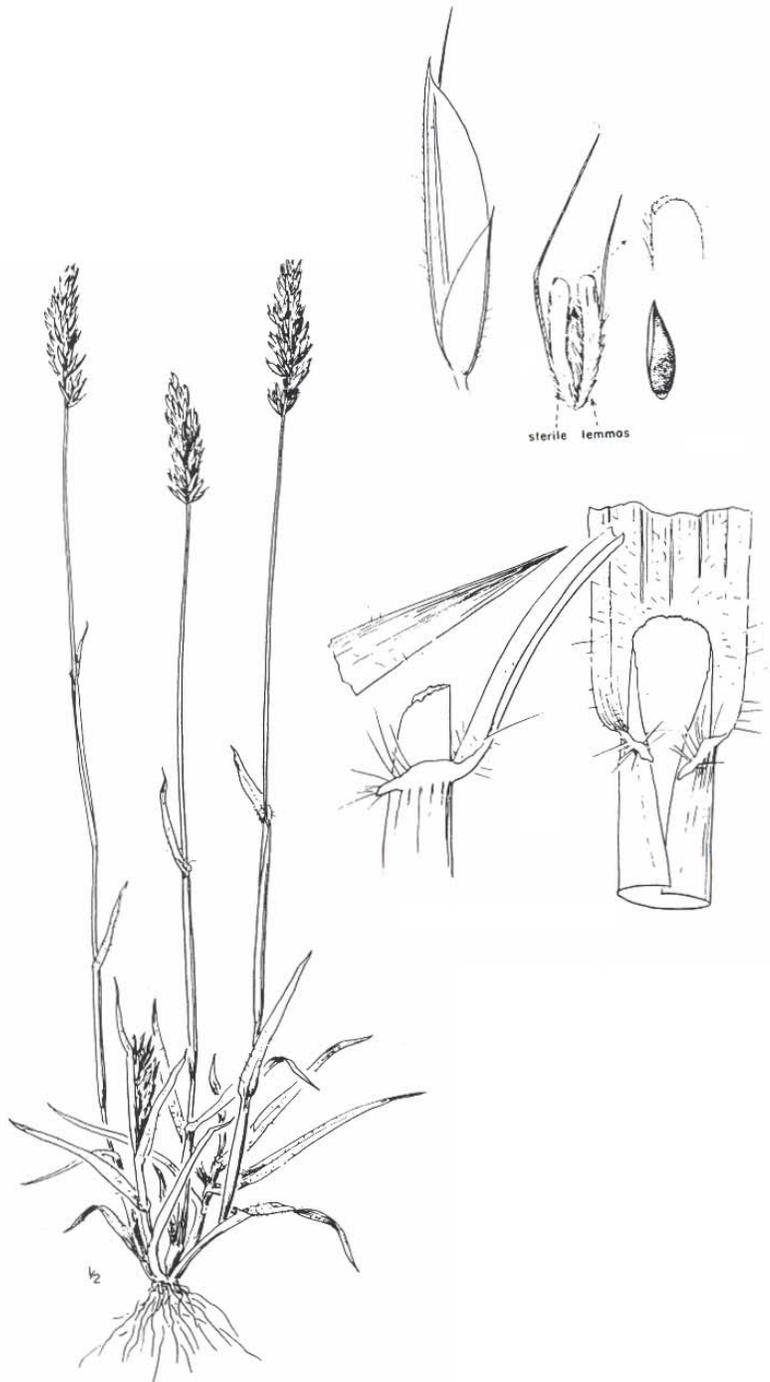
Stems Hairy

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 3

**Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem**

Bloom Period March-April

Habitat Low Fertility, Low pH,
Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Upland, Wetland



Scientific Name

Arrhenatherum elatius

Common Name

Oatgrass, Tall

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
 Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
 Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
 Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Hairy Sometimes

Leaves Shiny (Usually)

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 4-8

**Leaf Sheath Wraps Less
Than Halfway Around
Stem**

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 1-2

Stem Bulblike At Base

Stem Nodes Hairy

Stems Bent

Stems Hairy Sometimes

**Stems Root At Lower
Nodes**

Stems Shiny

Awn On Floret Is Bent

**Awns On Seedhead
Sharply Bent**

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2

Bloom Period May-June

Habitat Prairie, Upland



Scientific Name

Beckmannia syzigachne

Common Name

Sloughgrass

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
 Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
 Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
 Press copied with permission.

Native

Plant Annual

**Rhizomes Or Stolons -
Sod-Forming**

Leaf Blade Flat

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Hairy

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 5-10

Ligule With Hairs On Top

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 6-11

Ligule Pointed

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 1

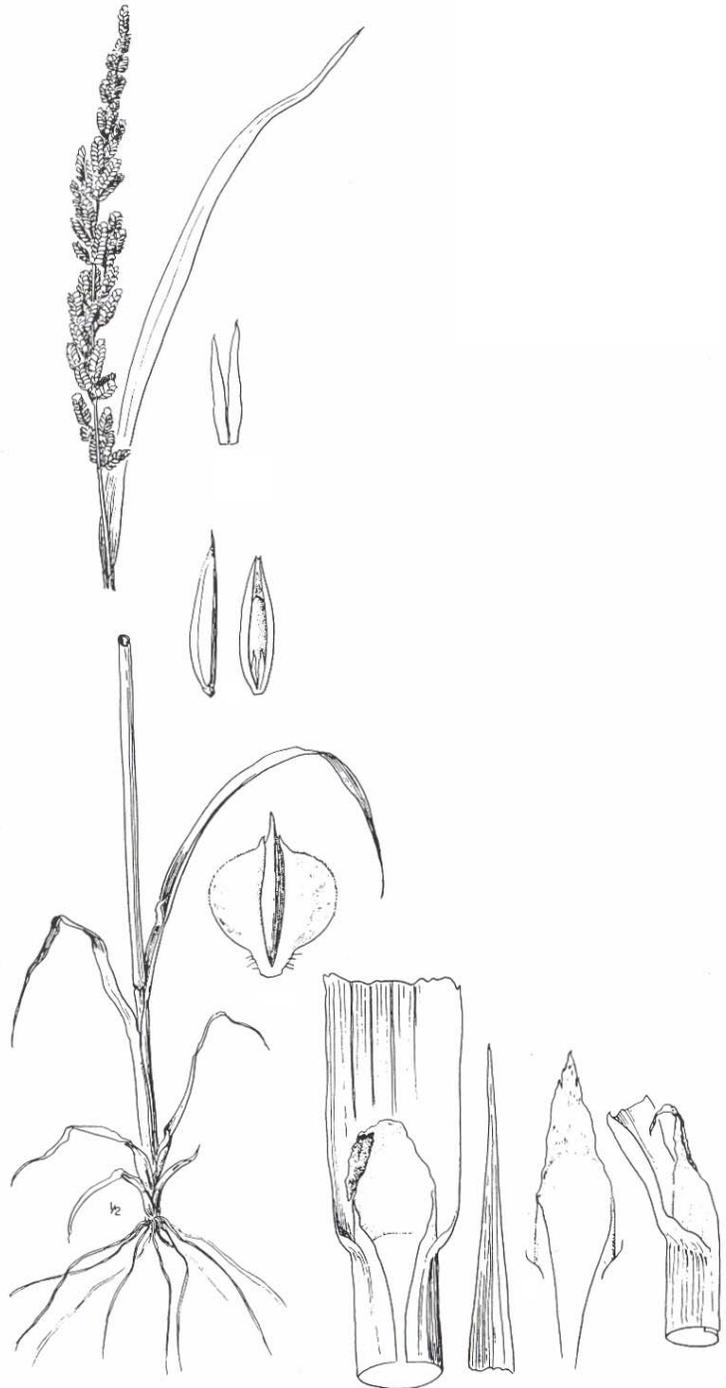
**Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem**

Spikelets Compressed

Bloom Period June-July

Salinity Tolerance Low

Habitat Warm Wet Prairie,
Wetland



Scientific Name

Bromus carinatus

Common Name

Brome, California

Citation:

Illustration by Cindy T. Roché, copied with permission from <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/>

Native

Plant Perennial

Bunchgrass - Tufted - Caespitose

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Grow Up The Stem

Leaves Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 7-15

Leaf Sheath Closed

Collar With Long Hairs

Ligule (Collar) Length (mm) 2-8

Auricles (Ears) Present - Long

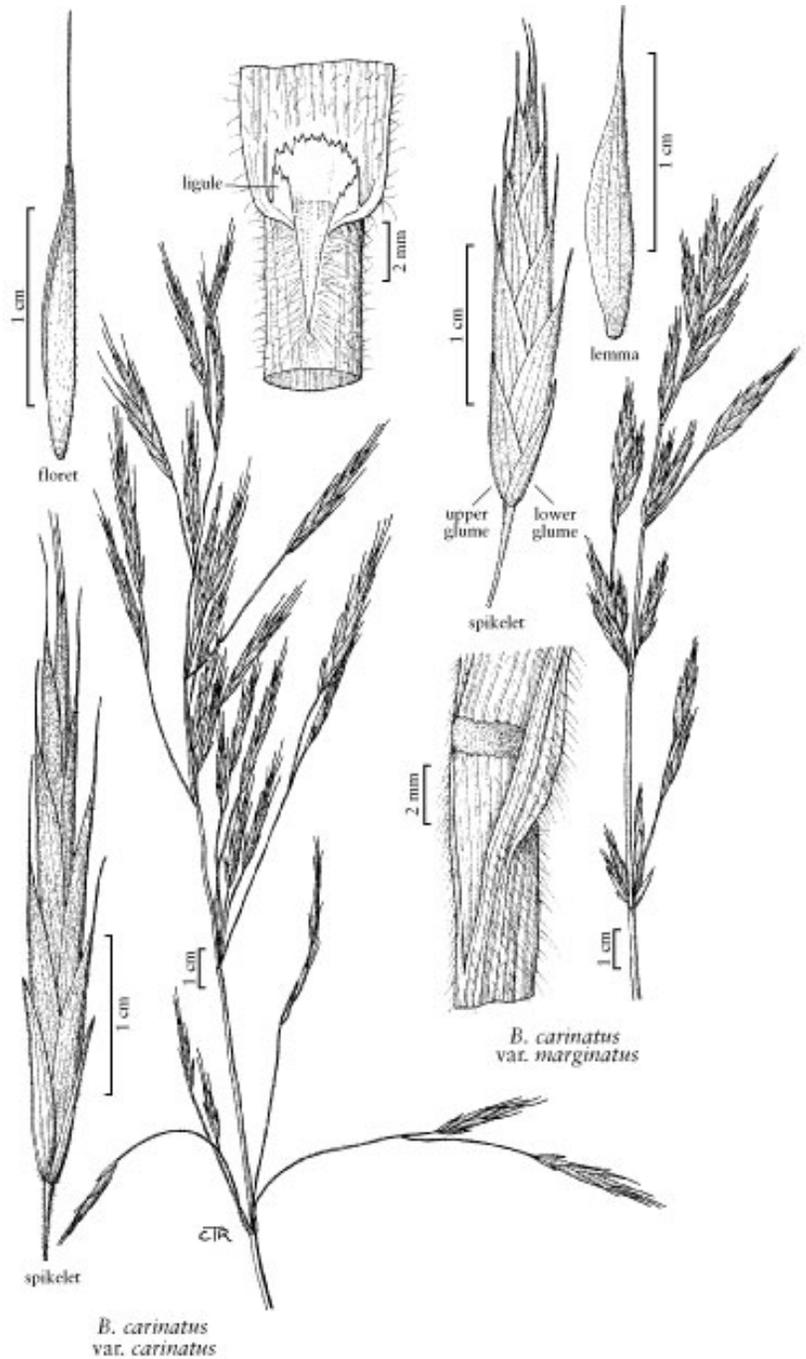
Stems Hairy

Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet 3+

Spikelets Flattened

Bloom Period April-May

Habitat Transitional between Upland and Wetland, Upland



Scientific Name

Bromus hordeaceus

Common Name

Brome, Annual

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
 Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
 Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
 Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Annual

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 2-5

Leaf Sheath Closed

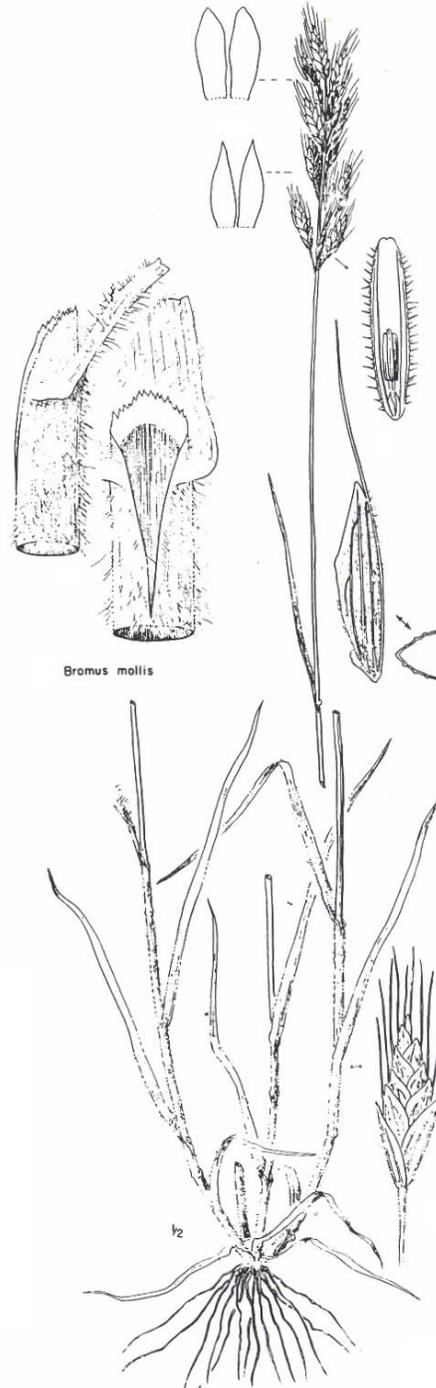
**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 0.5-1.5

Stems Hairy

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 3+

Bloom Period April-May

Habitat Upland



Scientific Name

Calamagrostis canadensis

Common Name

Bluejoint

Citation:

Illustration by Cindy Roché and Hana Pazdírková, copied with permission from <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/>

Native

Plant Perennial

Rhizomes Or Stolons -

Sod-Forming

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Rough On Edges

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 3-8

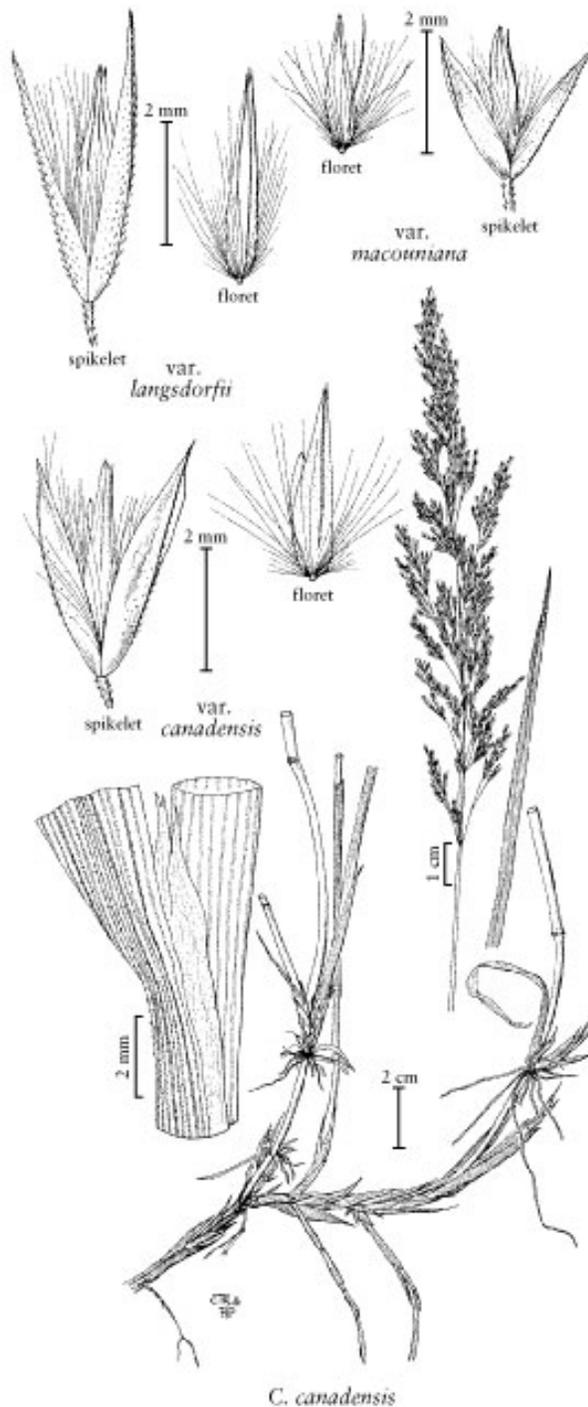
Ligule (Collar) Length (mm) 3-10

Awns On Seedhead

Sharply Bent

Bloom Period July-August

Habitat Wetland



Scientific Name

Cynosurus cristatus

Common Name

Dogtail, Crested

Citation:

Illustration by Sandy Long, copied with permission from <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/>. Ligule illustration from Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual. Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaf Twisted

Leaves Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 1.5-2.5

**Leaf Sheath (Lower)
Yellowish-Brown**

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 0.8-1.5

**Auricles (Ears) Present -
Short**

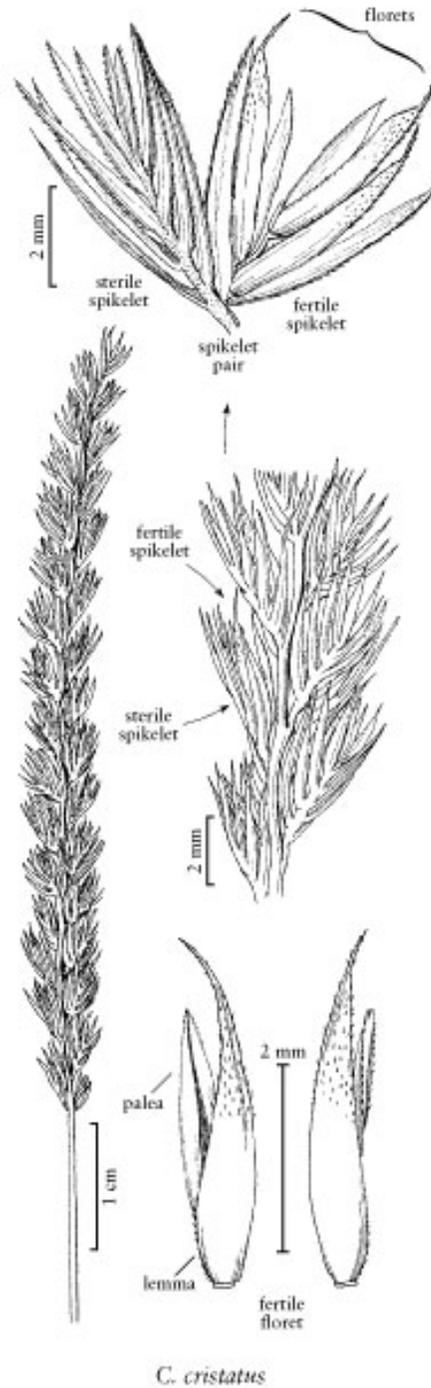
Stems Hairy

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 3

**Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem**

Bloom Period June-July

Habitat Low Fertility, Low pH,
Upland



Scientific Name

Cynosurus echinatus

Common Name

Dogtail, Annual

Citation:

Illustration by Sandy Long, copied with permission from <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/>. Ligule illustration from Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual. Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Annual

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Rough On Edges

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 2-5

**Leaf Sheath Often
Inflated**

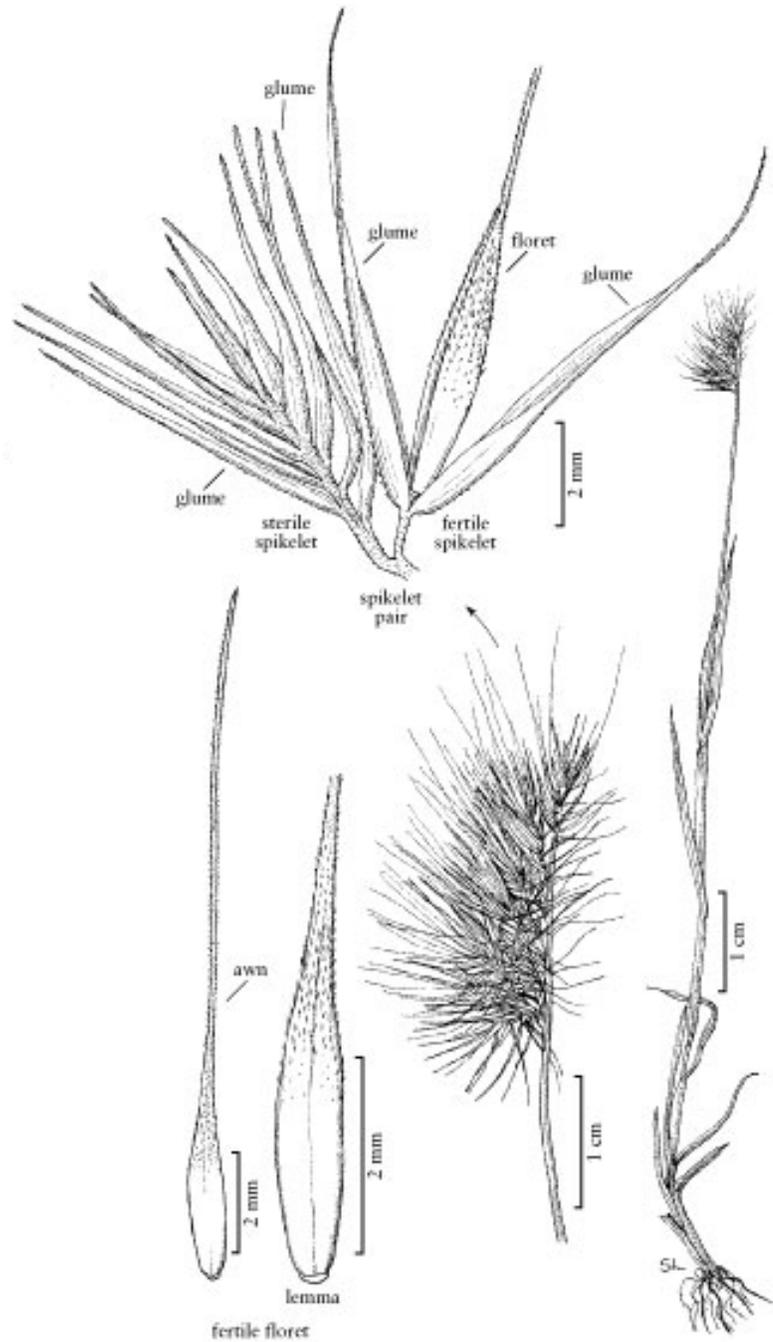
**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 2-7

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2

**Seedheads Crowded
And One-Sided**

Bloom Period May-July

Habitat Low Fertility, Low pH,
Upland



C. echinatus

Scientific Name

Dactylis glomerata

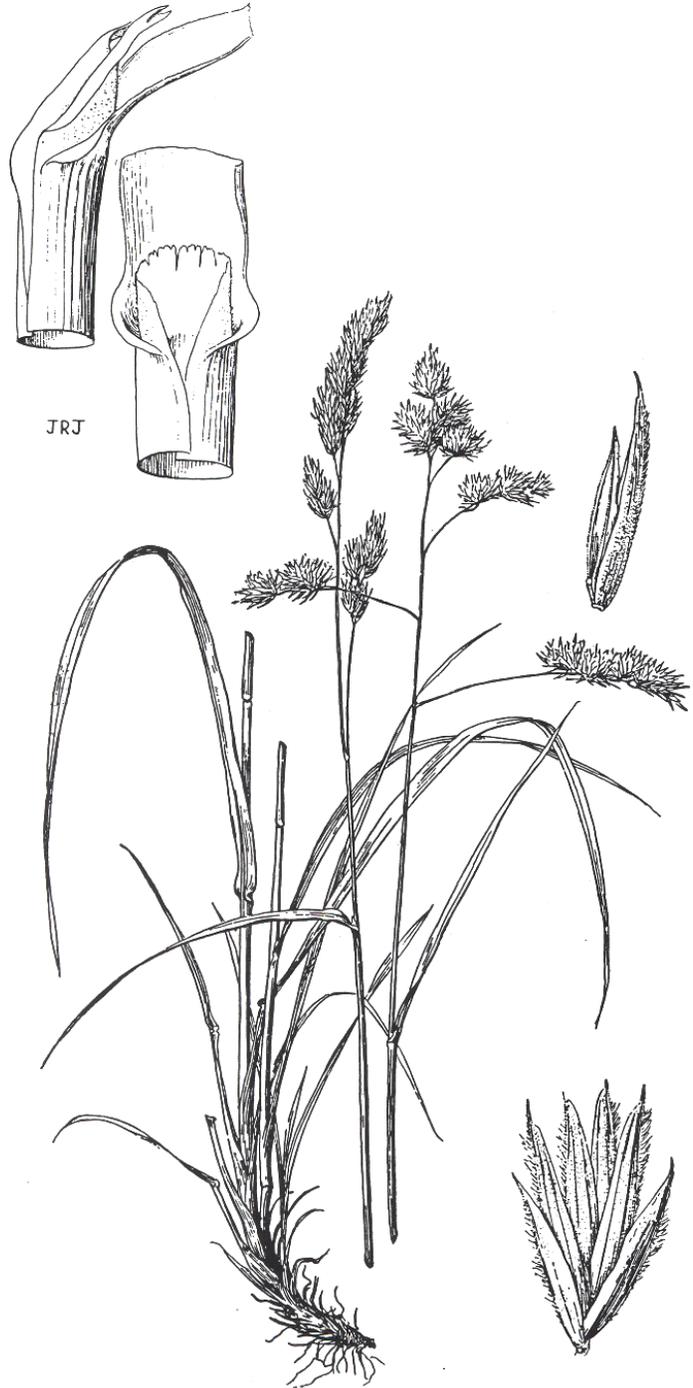
Common Name

Orchardgrass

Citation:

USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase). 1950. Manual of the grasses of the United States. USDA Miscellaneous Publication No. 200. Washington, DC.

Ligules from: Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual. Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press



Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Folded

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaf Tip Prow-Shaped

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 3-11

Leaf Sheath Closed

Leaf Sheath Compressed

Leaf Sheath Keeled

Ligule White

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 3-9

Ligule Pointed

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 3,3+

Bloom Period April-May

Salinity Tolerance Low

Habitat Prairie, Transitional
between Upland and
Wetland, Upland

Scientific Name

Danthonia californica

Common Name

Oatgrass, California

Citation:

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Collection, Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation,
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Native

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 2-4

Ligule A Fringe Of Hairs

Collar With Long Hairs

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 0.5

Stems Hairy

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 1,2

Bloom Period May-June

Habitat Low Fertility, Prairie



Scientific Name

Danthonia spicata

Common Name

Oatgrass, poverty

Citation:

Illustration by Linda A. Vorobik and Hana Pazdírková,
copied with permission from
<http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/>

Native

Plant Perennial

Bunchgrass -Tufted -

Caespitose

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves - Upper Sides

Hairy

Leaves Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 2-4

Ligule A Fringe Of Hairs

Collar With Long Hairs

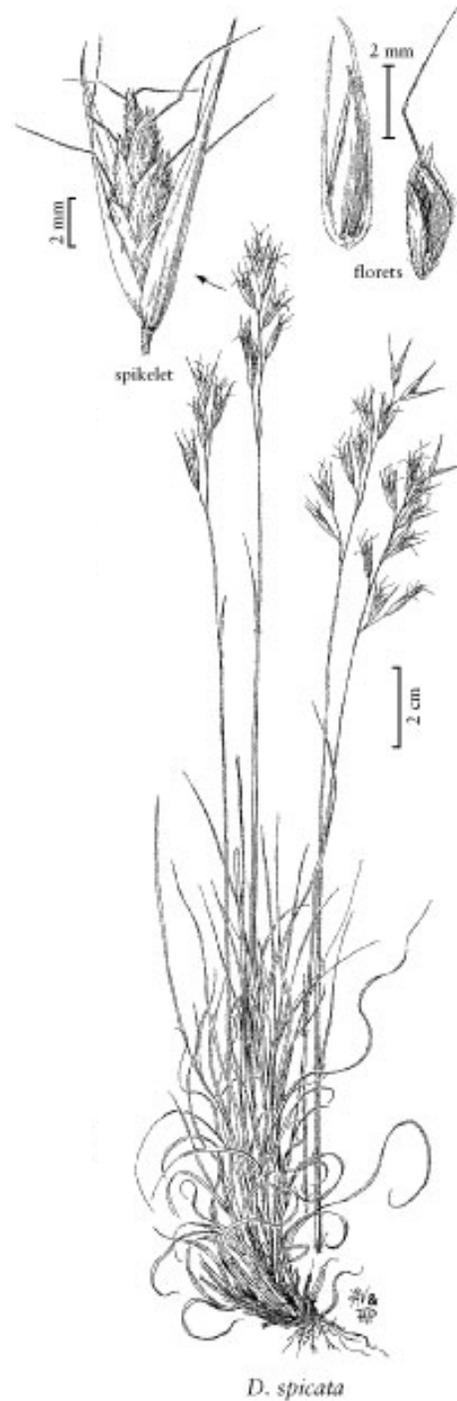
Ligule (Collar) Length (mm) 0.5

Stems Hairy

Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet 1,2

Bloom Period May-June

Habitat Low Fertility, Prairie



Scientific Name

Deschampsia caespitosa

Common Name

Hairgrass, Tufted

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
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Native

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Rough On Edges

Leaves Stiff

**Leaves Strongly
Rolled/Threadlike**

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 1.5-3

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 3-8

Ligule Pointed

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2

Seedheads Purplish

Bloom Period June-July

Salinity Tolerance High

Habitat Wetland



Scientific Name

Digitaria ischaemum

Common Name

Crabgrass

Citation:

Illustration by Linda A. Vorobik and Hana Pazdírková,
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<http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/>

Introduced

Plant Annual

Warm-Season Grass

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 4-6

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 1

Stems Bent

Stems Hairy

**Stems Root At Lower
Nodes**

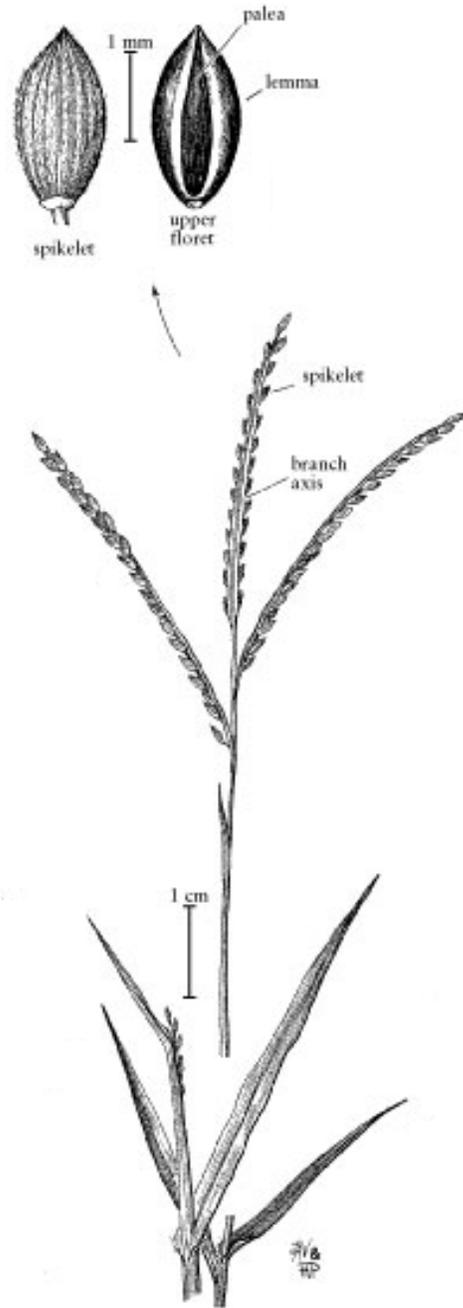
**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 1-2

Seedheads Palmate

Bloom Period July-August

Comments Leaf Blades mostly
glabrous

Habitat Transitional between
Upland and Wetland



D. ischaemum

Scientific Name

Digitaria sanguinalis

Common Name

Crabgrass

Citation:

Illustration by Linda A. Vorobik and Hana Pazdírková, copied with permission from <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/>

Introduced

Plant Annual

Warm-Season Grass

Bunchgrass -Tufted - Caespitose

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Grow Up The Stem

Leaves Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 4-6

Ligule (Collar) Length (mm) 1

Stems Bent

Stems Hairy

Stems Root At Lower Nodes

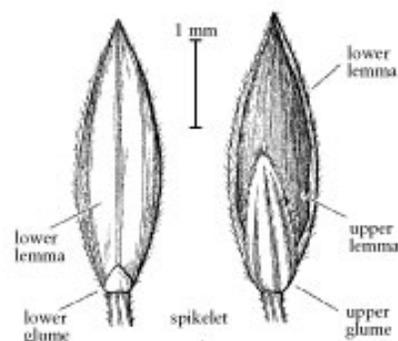
Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet 1-2

Seedheads Palmate

Bloom Period July-August

Comments Leaf blades more or less hairy

Habitat Upland



D. sanguinalis

Scientific Name

Distichlis spicata

Common Name

Saltgrass, Seashore

Citation:

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Collection, Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation,
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Native

Plant Perennial

**Rhizomes Or Stolons -
Sod-Forming**

Leaf Blade Flat

**Leaves 2-Ranked (In
One Plane) And Sharply
Pointed**

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Rough On Edges

Leaves Stiff

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 1.5-8

Collar With Long Hairs

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 0.5

Stems Solid (Not Hollow)

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2,3

Bloom Period July-August

Salinity Tolerance High

Habitat Saline



Scientific Name

Echinochloa crus-galli

Common Name

Barnyardgrass

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Annual

Warm-Season Grass

Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Grow Up The
Stem

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 4-16

Leaf Sheath Compressed

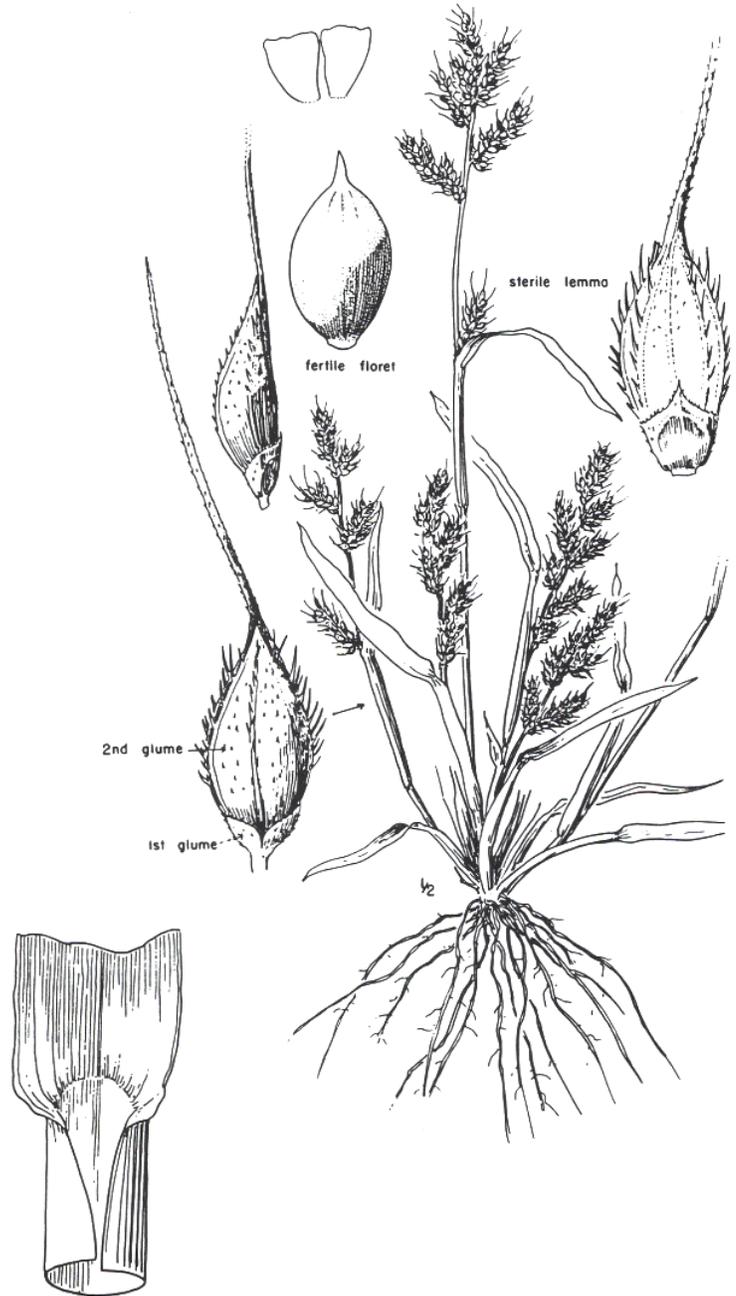
Ligule A Fringe Of Hairs

No Ligule

Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet 1

Bloom Period July-August

Habitat Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Upland, Wetland, Not
Saline



Scientific Name

Elymus glaucus

Common Name

Wildrye, Blue

Citation:

Illustration by Cindy Roché and Annaliese Miller, copied with permission from <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/>

Native

Plant Perennial

Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Grow Up The
Stem

Leaves Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 5-10

Collar Often Purple

Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm) 0.5-1.5

Auricles (Ears) Present -
Long

Stems Hairy

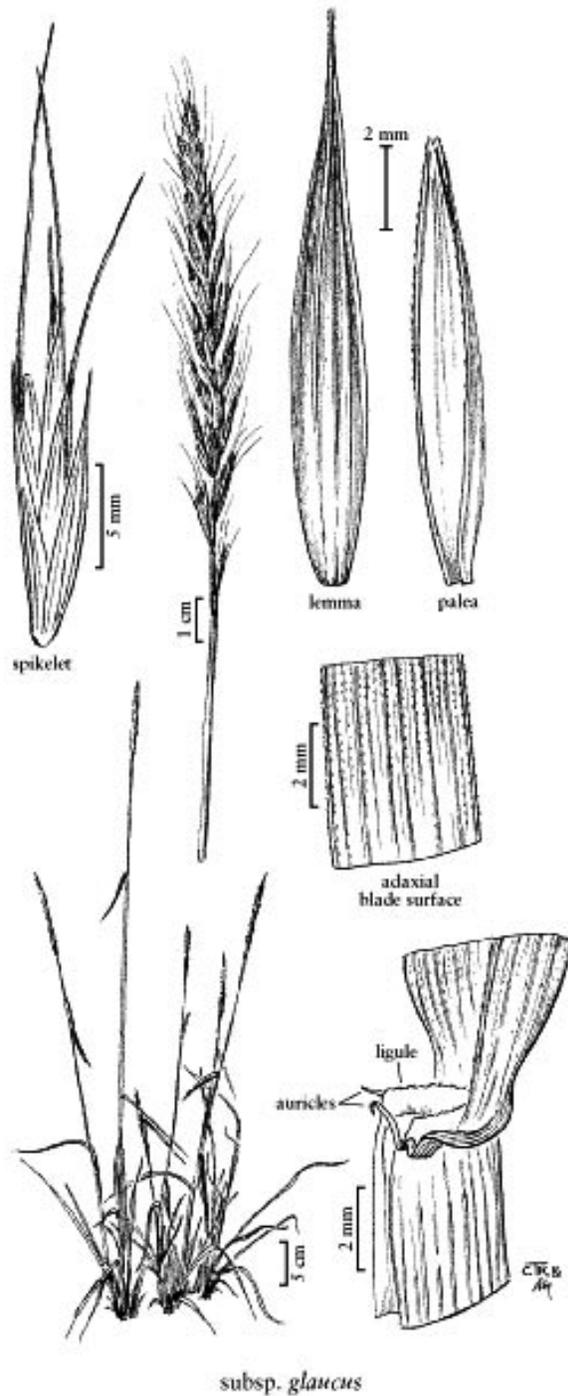
Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet 2,3,3+

Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem

Bloom Period June-July

Salinity Tolerance Moderate

Habitat Upland



Scientific Name

Elymus repens

Common Name

Quackgrass

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
 Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
 Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
 Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Rhizomes Or Stolons -
Sod-Forming**

Rhizomes - Tough, Wiry

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaf Twisted

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Hairy Sometimes

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 5-10

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 0.3-0.5

**Auricles (Ears) Present -
Long**

Stems Hairy Sometimes

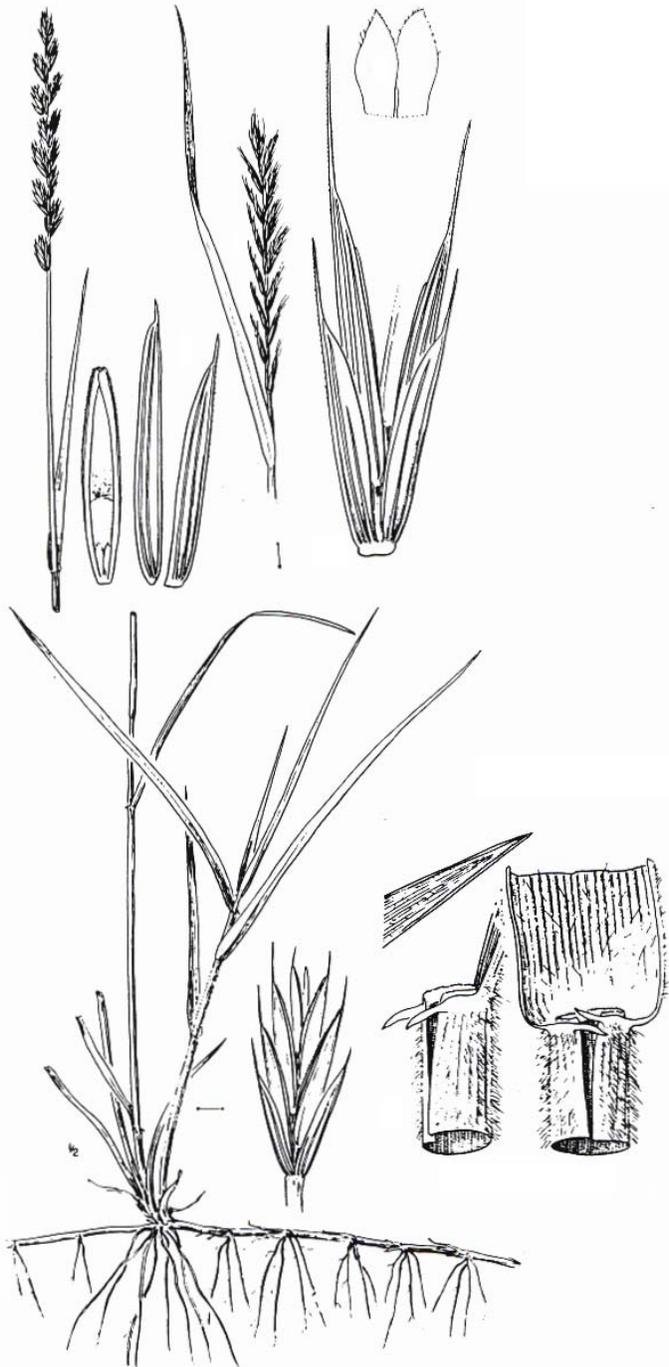
**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 3+

**Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem**

Bloom Period June-July

Salinity Tolerance High

Habitat Prairie, Transitional
 between Upland and
 Wetland, Upland,
 Wetland



Scientific Name

Elymus trachycaulus

Common Name

Slender Wheatgrass

Citation:

USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. Vol. 1: 285.

Native

Plant Perennial

Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Rough On Edges

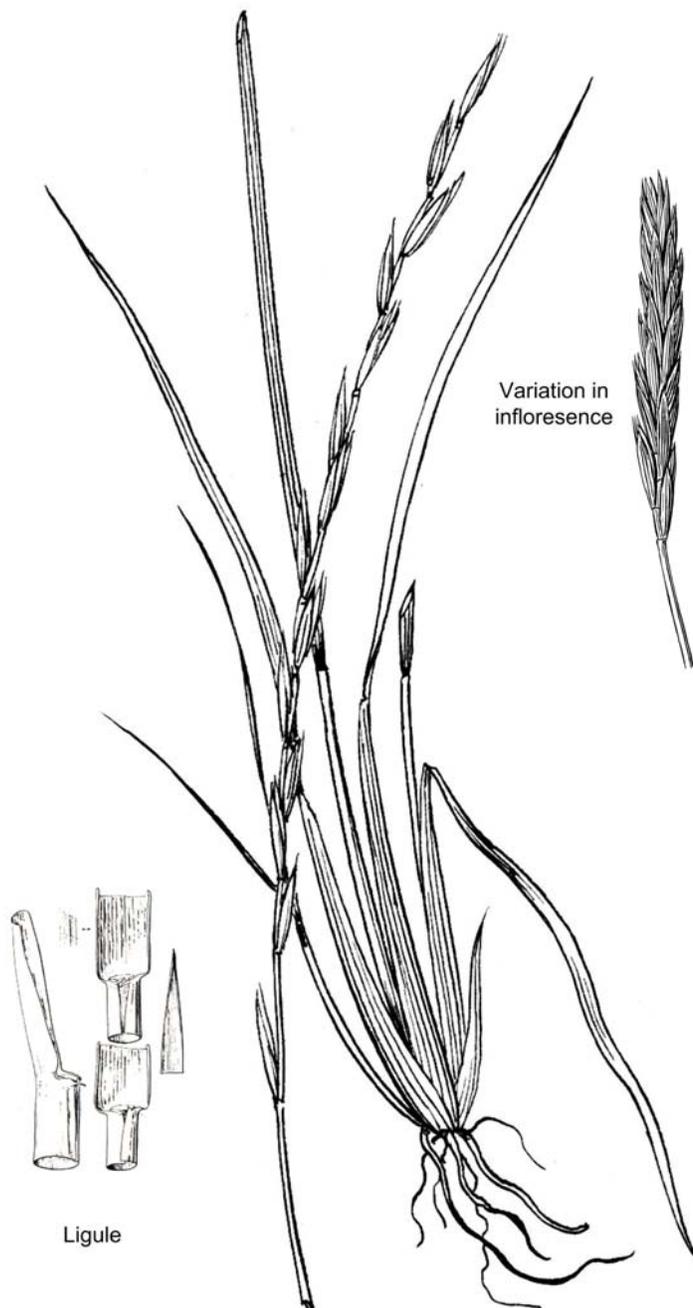
Auricles (Ears) Present -
Short

Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem

Spikelets Strongly
Overlapping

Habitat

Prairie, Transitional
between Upland and
Wetland, Upland



Scientific Name

Festuca brevipila

Common Name

Fescue, Hard

Citation:

Illustration by Cindy T. Roché, copied with permission from <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/>

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaves Not Hairy

**Leaves Strongly
Rolled/Threadlike**

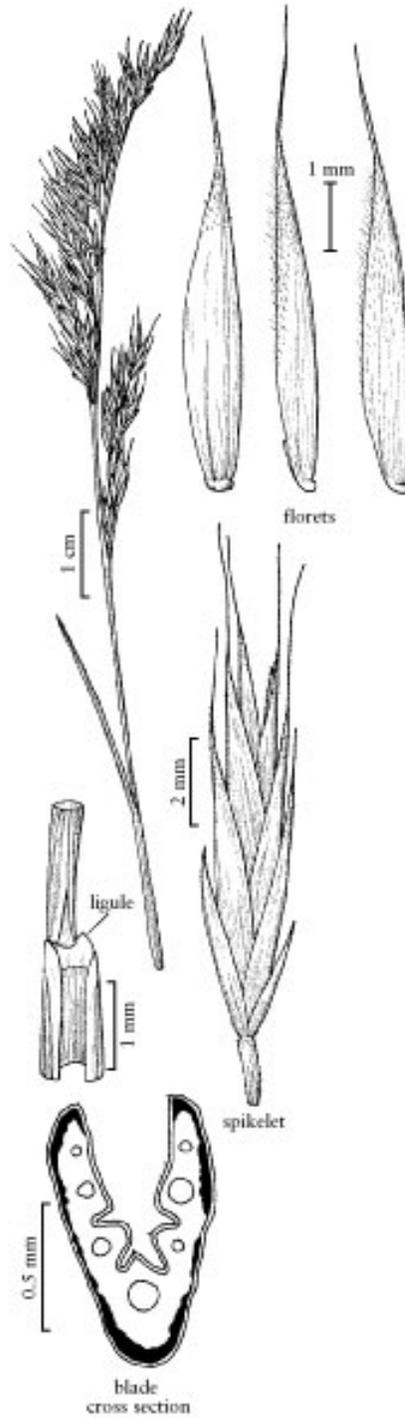
Leaf Blade Width (mm) 0.8-1.2

Ligule Longest On Sides

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 0.1-0.5

Bloom Period June?

Habitat Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Upland



Scientific Name

Festuca idahoensis ssp. roemeri

Common Name

Fescue, Roemer's

Citation:

Illustration by Cindy T. Roché, copied with permission from <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/>

Native

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaves Not Hairy

**Leaves Strongly
Rolled/Threadlike**

Leaf Blade Width (mm) < 1

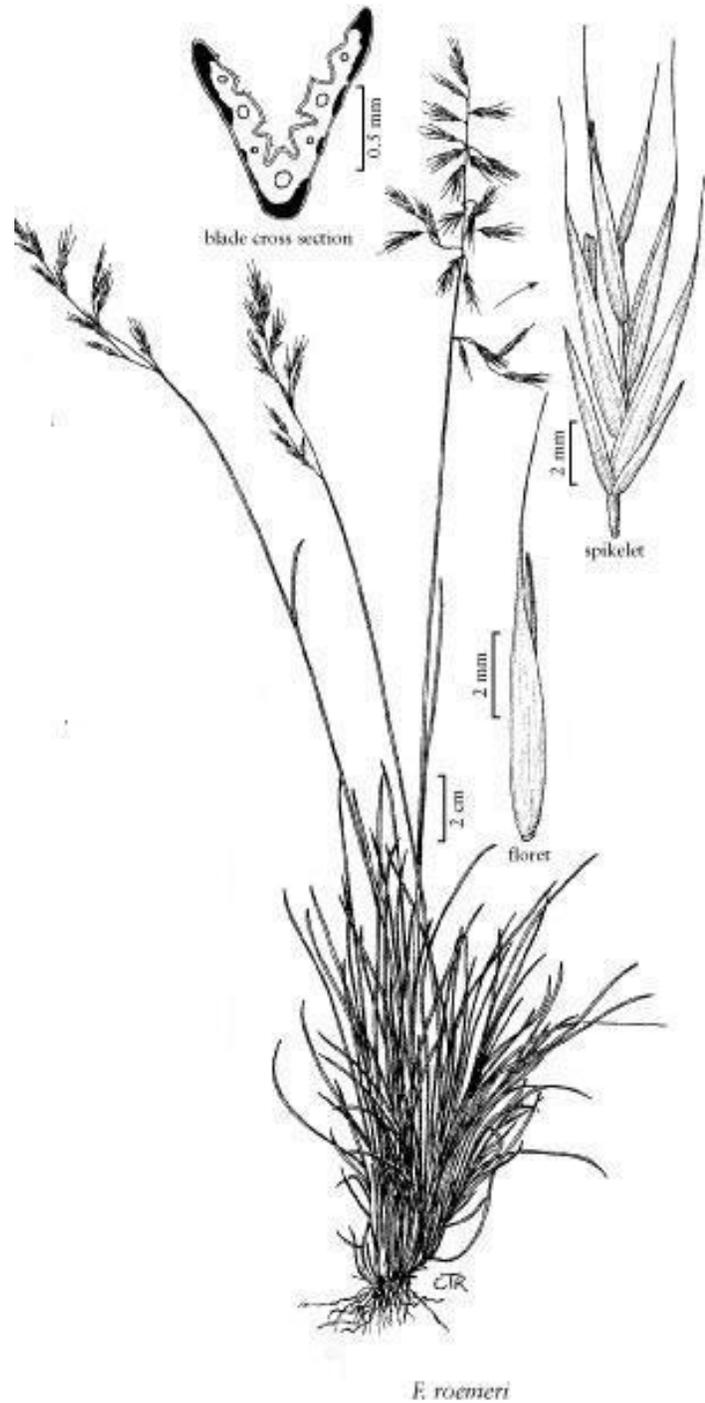
Leaf Sheath Shredding

Ligule Longest On Sides

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 0.3-0.6

Bloom Period May-June

Habitat Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Upland



Scientific Name

Festuca rubra

Common Name

Fescue, Fine

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
 Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
 Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
 Press copied with permission.

Introduced Some native populations

Plant Perennial

**Rhizomes Or Stolons -
 Sod-Forming**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Rough On Edges

Leaves Shiny (Usually)

**Leaves Strongly
 Rolled/Threadlike**

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 1-1.5

**Leaf Sheath Closed For
 3/4 Of Length**

Ligule Longest On Sides

**Ligule (Collar) Length
 (mm)** 0.5

**Number Of Florets
 (Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2,3,3+

Bloom Period May-June

Salinity Tolerance Moderate

Habitat Transitional between
 Upland and Wetland,
 Upland



Scientific Name

Glyceria occidentalis

Common Name

Mannagrass, Western

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
 Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
 Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
 Press copied with permission.

Native

Plant Perennial

**Rhizomes Or Stolons -
Sod-Forming**

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Rough On Edges

Leaf Tip Prow-Shaped

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 4-8

Leaf Sheath Closed

Leaf Sheath Compressed

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 5-12

Ligule Pointed

**Auricles (Ears) Present -
Long**

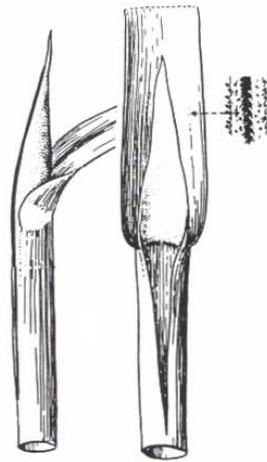
**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 3+

**Spikelets Cylindrical In
X-Section**

Bloom Period June?

Salinity Tolerance Low

Habitat Wetland



Scientific Name

Holcus lanatus

Common Name

Velvetgrass, Common

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
 Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
 Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
 Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 3-10

Ligule With Hairs On Top

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 1-2

Stems Hairy

Awn On Floret Is Bent

**Awn On Floret Is Curved
Like A Fishhook**

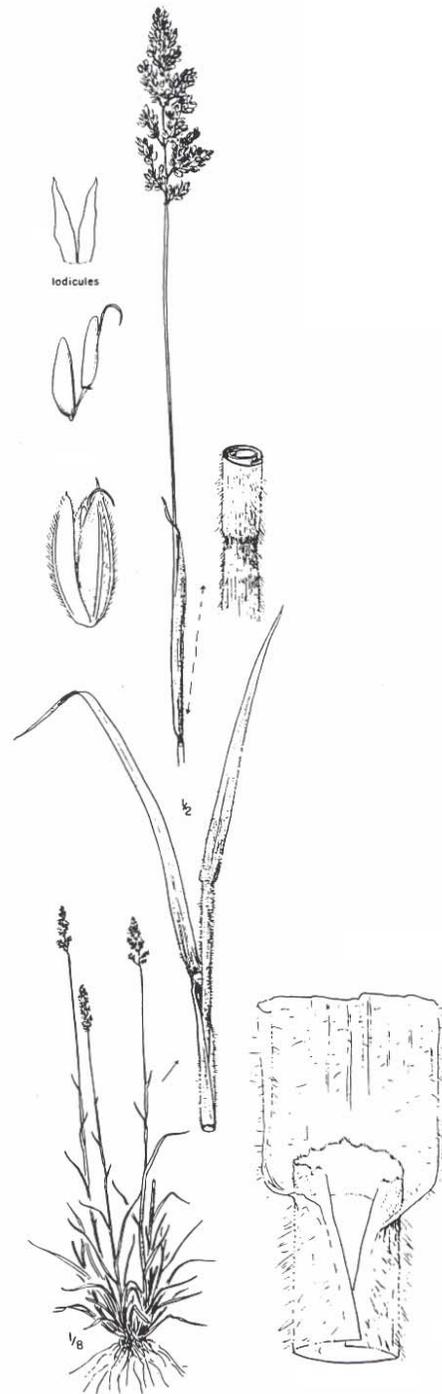
**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2

**Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem**

Bloom Period May-June

Salinity Tolerance High

Habitat Low Fertility, Low pH,
 Prairie, Transitional
 between Upland and
 Wetland, Upland,
 Wetland



Scientific Name

Holcus mollis

Common Name

Velvetgrass, Creeping

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Rhizomes Or Stolons -
Sod-Forming**

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 3-10

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 2-4

Awn On Floret Is Bent

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2

**Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem**

Bloom Period June?

Habitat Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Wetland



Scientific Name

Hordeum brachyantherum

Common Name

Barley, Meadow

Citation:

Illustration by Cindy Roché and Annaliese Miller, copied with permission from <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/>

Native

Plant Perennial

Bunchgrass -Tufted - Caespitose

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Grow Up The Stem

Leaves Hairy

Sometimes

Leaf Blade Width (mm)

3-8

Ligule (Collar) Length (mm)

0.5

Stems Bent

Stems Hairy

Sometimes

Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet

3

Seeds Seem Directly Attached To Main Stem

Bloom Period

June-July

Salinity Tolerance

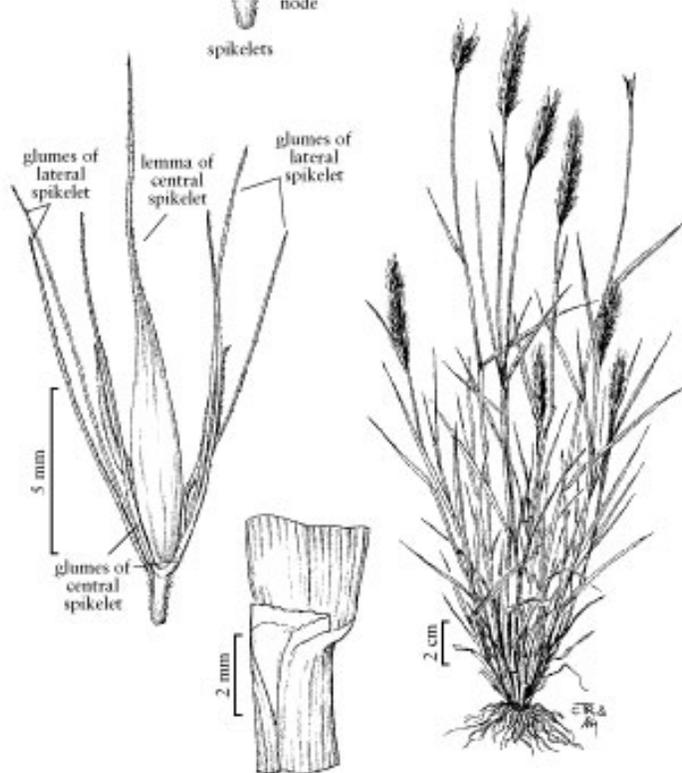
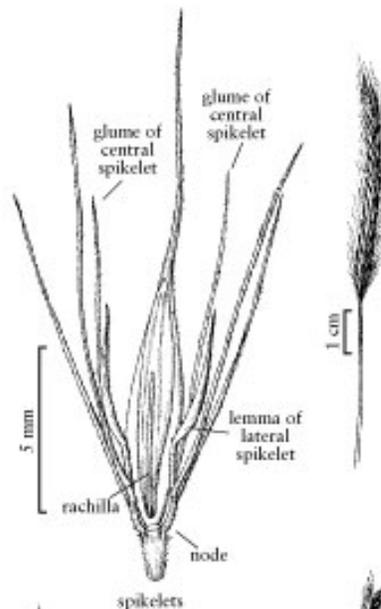
High

Comments

Sometimes leaves and stems are not hairy

Habitat

Saline, Transitional between Upland and Wetland, Wetland



subsp. *brachyantherum*

Scientific Name

Koeleria macrantha

Common Name

Prairie Junegrass

Citation:

Illustration by Linda A. Vorobik and Hana Pazdírková, copied with permission from <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/> Ligule and blade tip illustration from: Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual. Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press copied with permission.

Native

Plant Perennial

Bunchgrass -Tufted -

Caespitose

Leaf Blade Folded

Leaves Hairy

Leaves Strongly Rolled/Threadlike

Leaf Tip Prow-Shaped

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 1-2

Collar With Long Hairs

Ligule Longest On Sides

Ligule (Collar) Length (mm) 0.5-2

Stems Hairy

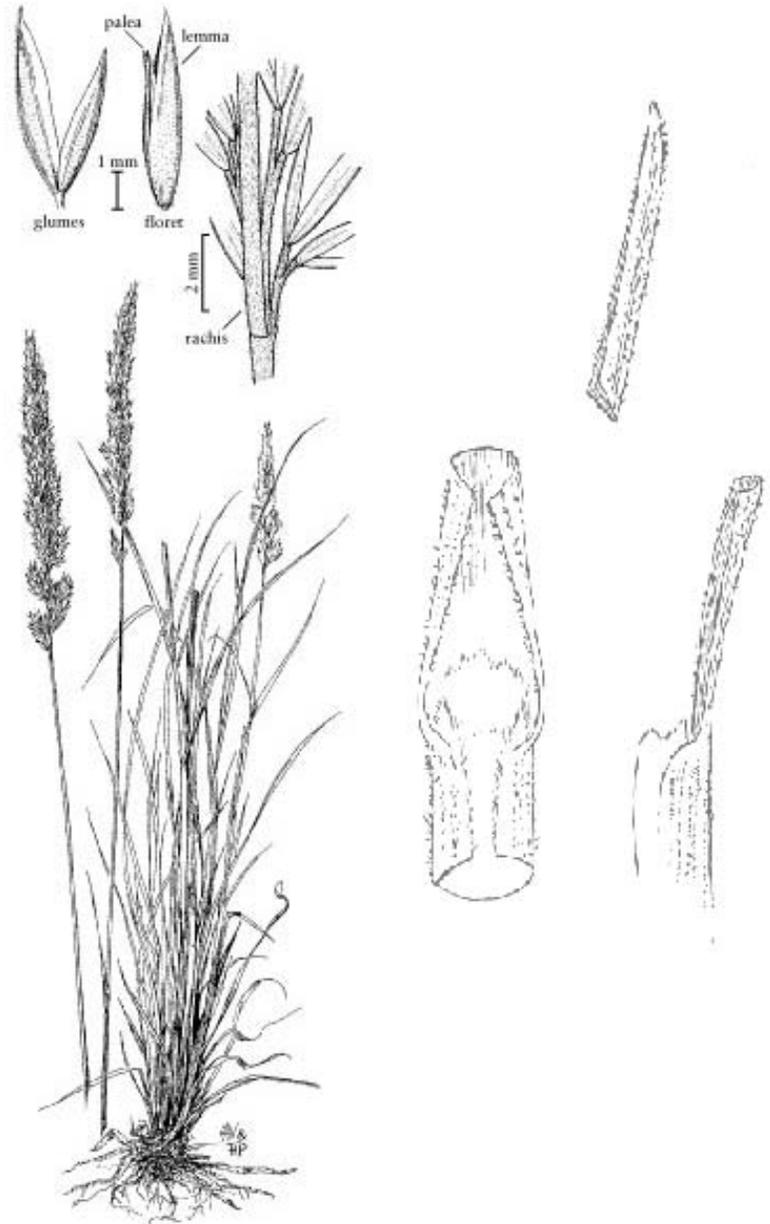
Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet 3+

Seeds Seem Directly Attached To Main Stem

Bloom Period May

Comments No Salinity Tolerance - pH 6-8

Habitat Prairie



K. macrantha

Scientific Name

Leersia oryzoides

Common Name

Rice Cutgrass

Citation:

Hitchcock-Chase Collection of Grass Drawings, courtesy of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa., on indefinite loan from the Smithsonian Institution. Ligule from: Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual. Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press copied with permission.

Native

Plant Perennial

**Rhizomes Or Stolons -
Sod-Forming**

Leaf Blade Flat

**Leaf Back Has Distinct
Central Ridge**

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Rough On Edges

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 6-10

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 1

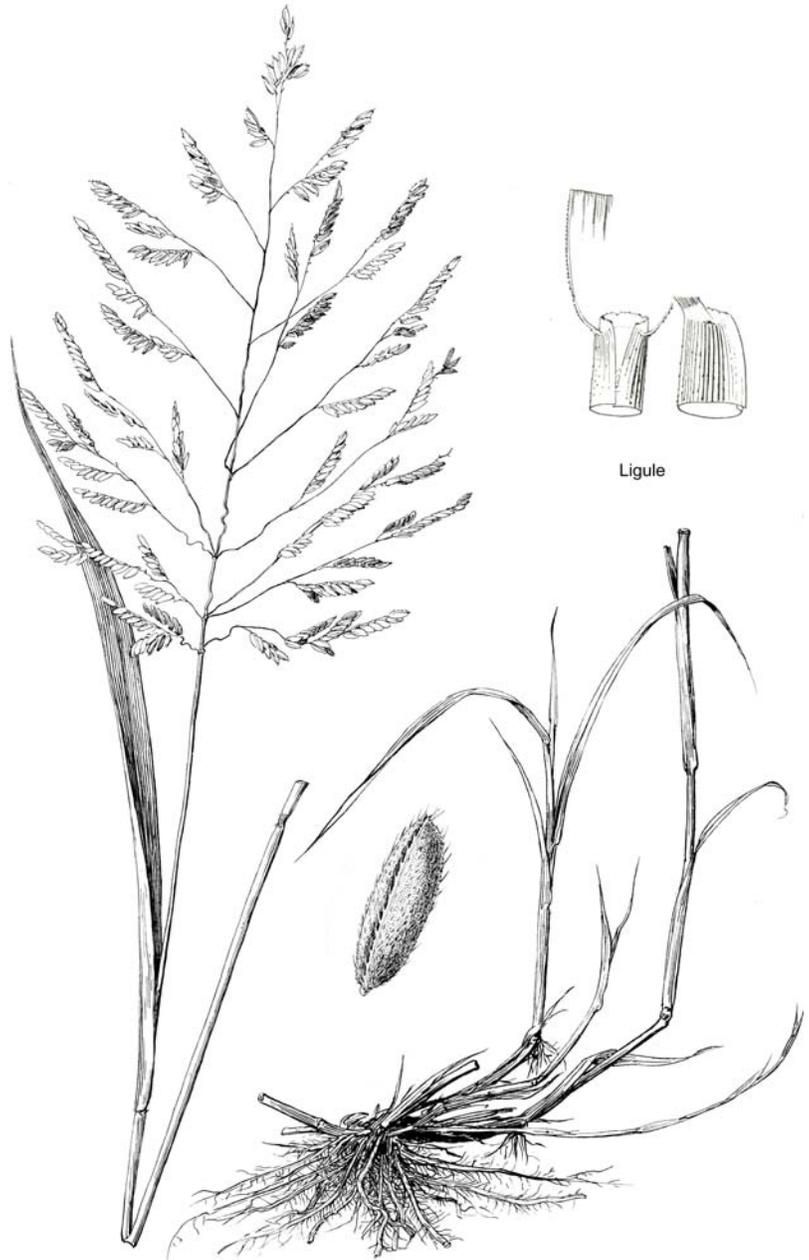
Stem Nodes Hairy

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 1

Bloom Period July-August

Comments Leaves and stems
very rough, leaf blade
very wide

Habitat Warm Wet Prairie,
Wetland



Scientific Name

Leymus mollis

Common Name

Wildrye, Dune

Citation:

Illustration by Cindy T. Roché, copied with permission from <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/>

Native

Plant Perennial

**Rhizomes Or Stolons -
Sod-Forming**

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 6-15

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 1

**Auricles (Ears) Present -
Long**

Stems Hairy

Stems Hairy

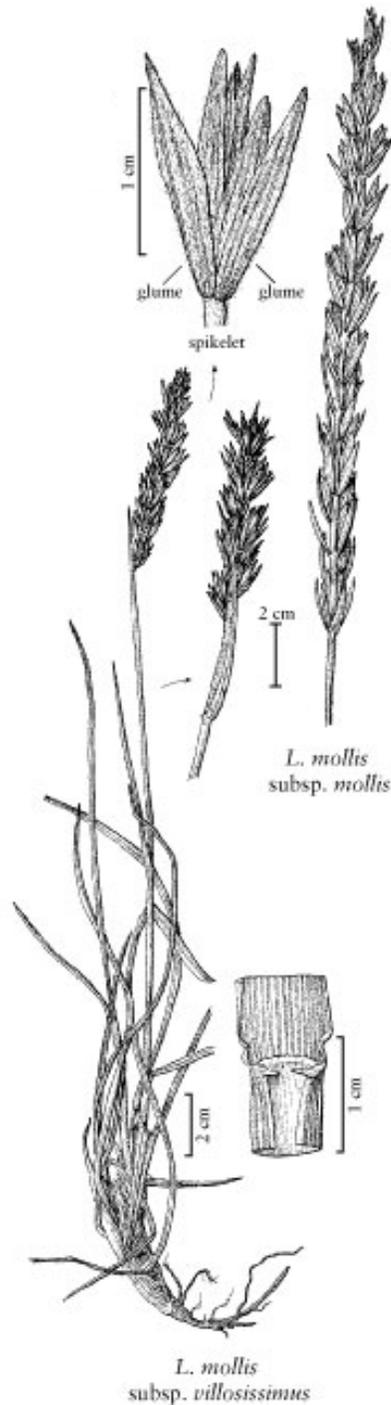
**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2,3,3+

**Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem**

Bloom Period June-July

Comments Stems finely hairy but
no hairs on leaves

Habitat Saline



Scientific Name

Lolium perenne

Common Name

Ryegrass, Perennial

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual. Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

Bunchgrass -Tufted - Caespitose

Leaf Blade Folded

Leaf Back Has Distinct Central Ridge

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Shiny (Usually)

Leaf Tip Prow-Shaped

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 3-4

Leaf Sheath Compressed

Ligule (Collar) Length (mm) 1.5

Auricles (Ears) Present - Short

Stem Purplish Red At Base

Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet 3+

Floret Unawned

Seeds Seem Directly Attached To Main Stem

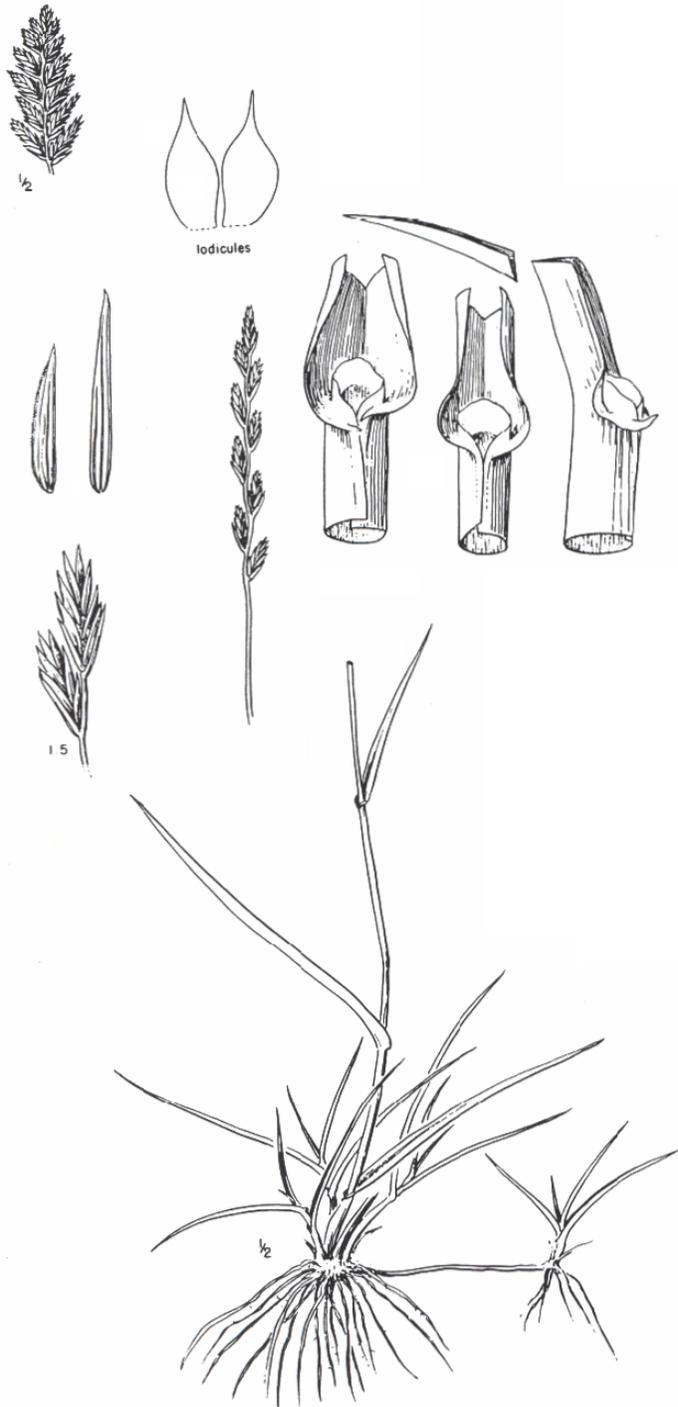
Bloom Period April

Salinity Tolerance High

Comments Auricles may not be present. Auricles are not long if present.

Comments Stems purplish-red at base

Habitat Transitional between Upland and Wetland, Upland, Wetland



Scientific Name

Lolium perenne ssp. multiflorum

Common Name

Ryegrass, Annual

Citation:

USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. Vol. 1: 282.

Introduced

Plant Annual

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

**Leaf Back Has Distinct
Central Ridge**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Shiny (Usually)

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 4-8

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 0.5-1.5

**Auricles (Ears) Present -
Long**

Floret Awned

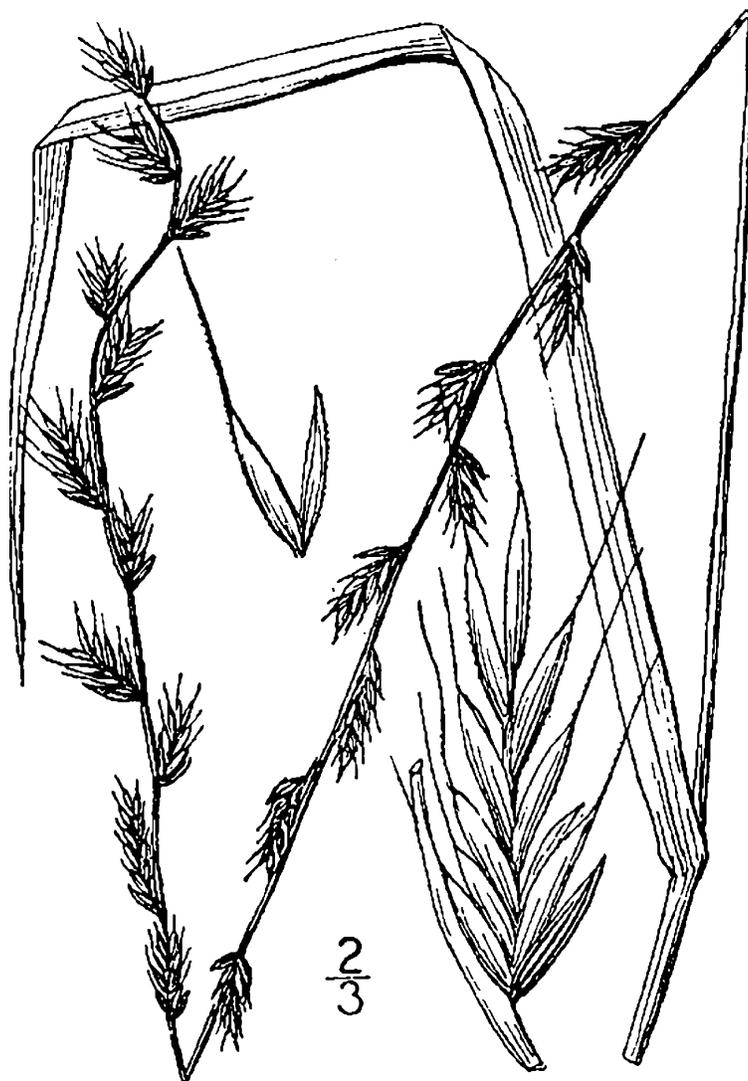
**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 3+

**Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem**

Bloom Period April

Salinity Tolerance Moderate

Habitat Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Upland, Wetland



Scientific Name

Lolium temulentum

Common Name

Darnel

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Annual

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Rough On Edges

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 3-10

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 1-1.5

**Auricles (Ears) Present -
Long**

**Glume Exceeds The
Spikelet**

**Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem**

**Seedhead Has Long
Awns**

Bloom Period April-May

Habitat Low Fertility,
Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Upland



Scientific Name

Phalaris arundinacea

Common Name

Canarygrass, Reed

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Rhizomes Or Stolons -
Sod-Forming**

Leaf Blade Flat

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 7-17

**Leaf Frees From Sheath
At Different Levels**

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 9-10

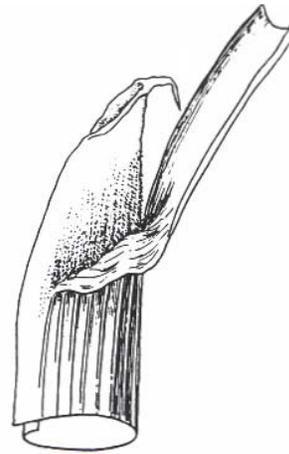
Ligule Pointed

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 1,3

Bloom Period June-July

Salinity Tolerance Moderate

Habitat Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Upland, Wetland



Scientific Name

Phleum pratense

Common Name

Timothy

Citation:

USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase). 1950. Manual of the grasses of the United States. USDA Miscellaneous Publication No. 200. Washington, DC.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

**Leaf Back Has Distinct
Central Ridge**

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 4-8

**Leaf Sheath Wraps Less
Than Halfway Around
Stem**

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 2-3

Stem Bulblike At Base

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 1

**Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem**

Bloom Period June

Salinity Tolerance Low

Comments U-shaped, stiff glumes
on floret

Habitat Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Wetland



Scientific Name

Poa annua

Common Name

Bluegrass, Annual

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
 Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
 Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
 Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Annual

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Cross-Wrinkled

Leaf Blade Folded

**Leaf Back Has Distinct
Central Ridge**

**Leaf 2 Distinct Veins At
Leaf Midrib (RR Tracks)**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaf Tip Prow-Shaped

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 1.5-4

Leaf Sheath Compressed

Leaf Sheath Keeled

Ligule White

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 1.2-1.8

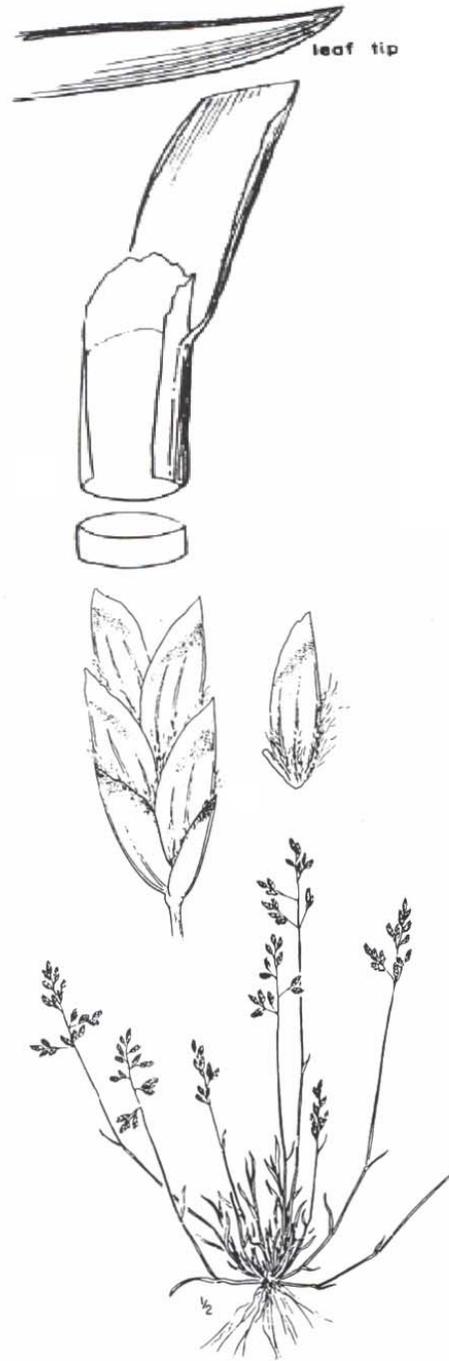
Ligule Pointed

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2,3+

Bloom Period Feb-May

Comments Size variable with site
fertility

Habitat Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Upland, Wetland



Scientific Name

Poa bulbosa

Common Name

Bluegrass, Bulbous

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

**Leaf Back Has Distinct
Central Ridge**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Rough On Edges

Leaf Tip Prow-Shaped

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 1-2.5

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 1-3

Stem Bulblike At Base

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2,3+

**Florets Usually Purplish
Bulbils**

Seedheads Purplish

Bloom Period March-April

Habitat Low Fertility, Upland



Scientific Name

Poa compressa

Common Name

Bluegrass, Canada

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Rhizomes Or Stolons -
Sod-Forming**

**Leaf Back Has Distinct
Central Ridge**

**Leaf 2 Distinct Veins At
Leaf Midrib (RR Tracks)**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Shiny (Usually)

Leaf Tip Prow-Shaped

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 2-5

Leaf Sheath Compressed

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 0.2-1.2

**Seeds With Cobwebby
Base**

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2,3+

Bloom Period May-June

Salinity Tolerance Low

Habitat Low pH, Prairie,
Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Upland, Wetland



Scientific Name

Poa macrantha

Common Name

Bluegrass, Seashore

Citation:

Illustration by Sandy Long, copied with permission from <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/> Ligule from: Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual. Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press copied with permission.

Native

Plant Perennial

**Rhizomes Or Stolons -
Sod-Forming**

**Leaf Back Has Distinct
Central Ridge**

Leaves Not Hairy

**Leaves Strongly
Rolled/Threadlike**

Leaf Tip Prow-Shaped

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 2-3

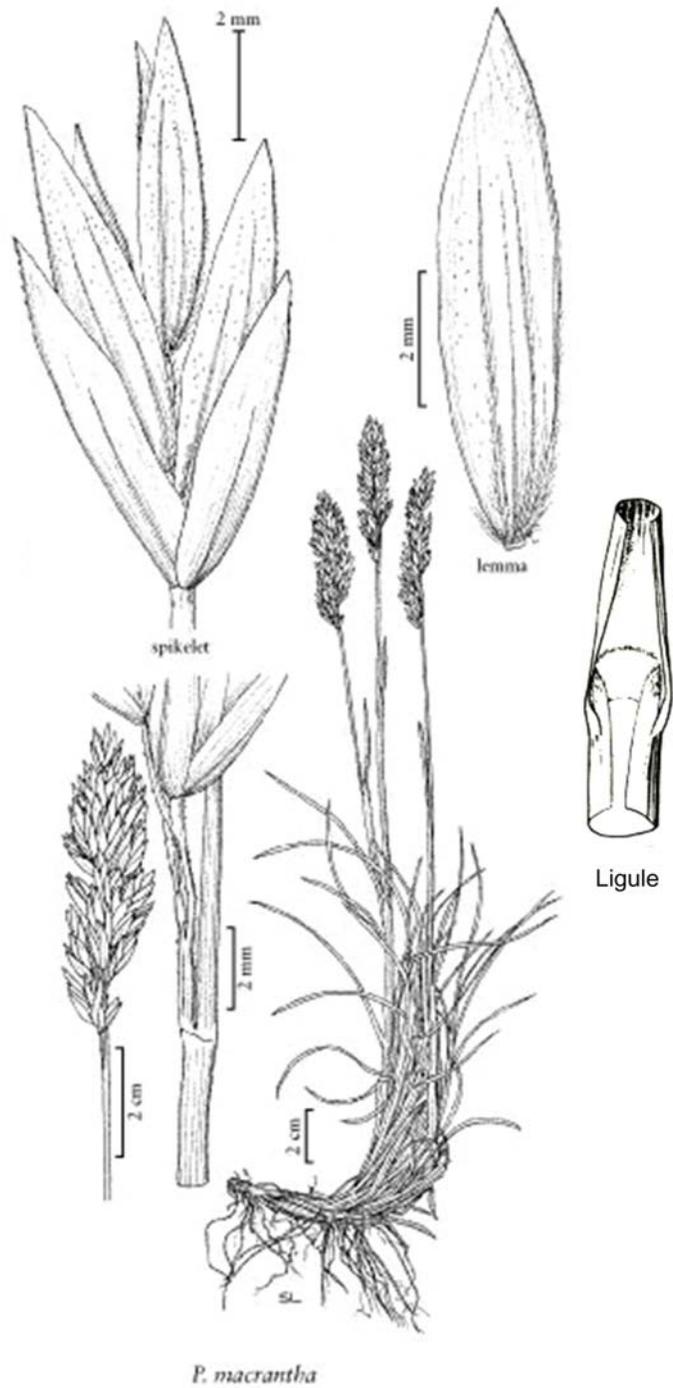
Ligule With Hairs On Top

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 1-1.5

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2,3+

Bloom Period May-June

Habitat Saline



Scientific Name

Poa palustris

Common Name

Bluegrass, Fowl

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
 Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
 Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
 Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

**Leaf Back Has Distinct
Central Ridge**

**Leaf 2 Distinct Veins At
Leaf Midrib (RR Tracks)**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaf Tip Prow-Shaped

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 2.4

Leaf Sheath Compressed

Leaf Sheath Keeled

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 2-5

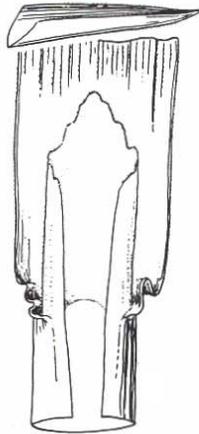
Stems Bent

**Stems Root At Lower
Nodes**

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2,3+

Bloom Period June

Habitat Transitional between
 Upland and Wetland,
 Wetland



Poa palustris

Scientific Name

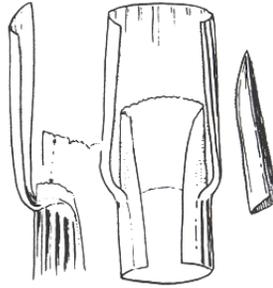
Poa pratensis

Common Name

Bluegrass, Kentucky

Citation:

USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase). 1950. Manual of the grasses of the United States. USDA Miscellaneous Publication No. 200. Washington, DC.



Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Rhizomes Or Stolons -
Sod-Forming**

**Leaf Back Has Distinct
Central Ridge**

**Leaf 2 Distinct Veins At
Leaf Midrib (RR Tracks)**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Shiny (Usually)

Leaf Tip Prow-Shaped

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 2-4 mm

Leaf Sheath Compressed

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 1-3

**Seeds With Cobwebby
Base**

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2,3+

Bloom Period May-June

Salinity Tolerance Low

Habitat Prairie, Transitional
between Upland and
Wetland, Upland,
Wetland



Scientific Name

Poa trivialis

Common Name

Bluegrass, Rough-Stalked

Citation:

Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual.
Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A
Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington
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Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

**Leaf Back Has Distinct
Central Ridge**

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Rough On Edges

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 2-5

Leaf Sheath Compressed

Leaf Sheath Keeled

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 3-7

Ligule Pointed

Stems Bent

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2,3+

Bloom Period May

Habitat Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Upland



Scientific Name

Schedonorus phoenix (Festuca arundinaceae)

Common Name

Fescue, Tall

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Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaves Rough On Edges

Leaves Shiny (Usually)

Leaves Stiff

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 4-10

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 0.2

**Auricles (Ears) Present -
Long**

**Auricles - Long Hairs On
Edge**

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2,3,3+

Bloom Period April-May

Salinity Tolerance High

Habitat Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Upland, Wetland



Scientific Name

Schedonorus pratensis

Common Name

Fescue, Meadow

Citation:

Hitchcock-Chase Collection of Grass Drawings, courtesy of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa., on indefinite loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

Leaf Blade Width 1-5 Mm

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Shiny (Usually)

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 3-5

Ligule (Collar) Length (mm) 0.2

Auricles (Ears) Present Long

Auricles Hairless

Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet 2,3,3+

Bloom Period May?

Salinity Tolerance Moderate

Habitat Transitional between Upland and Wetland, Upland, Wetland



Scientific Name

Setaria pumila ssp. pumila

Common Name

Bristlegrass

Citation:

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Introduced

Plant Annual

Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose

Leaf Blade - Papillose

Hairs Basally

Leaf Twisted

Leaves Grow Up The
Stem

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaf Sheath Compressed

Ligule A Fringe Of Hairs

Collar With Long Hairs

Stems Bent

Stems Hairy

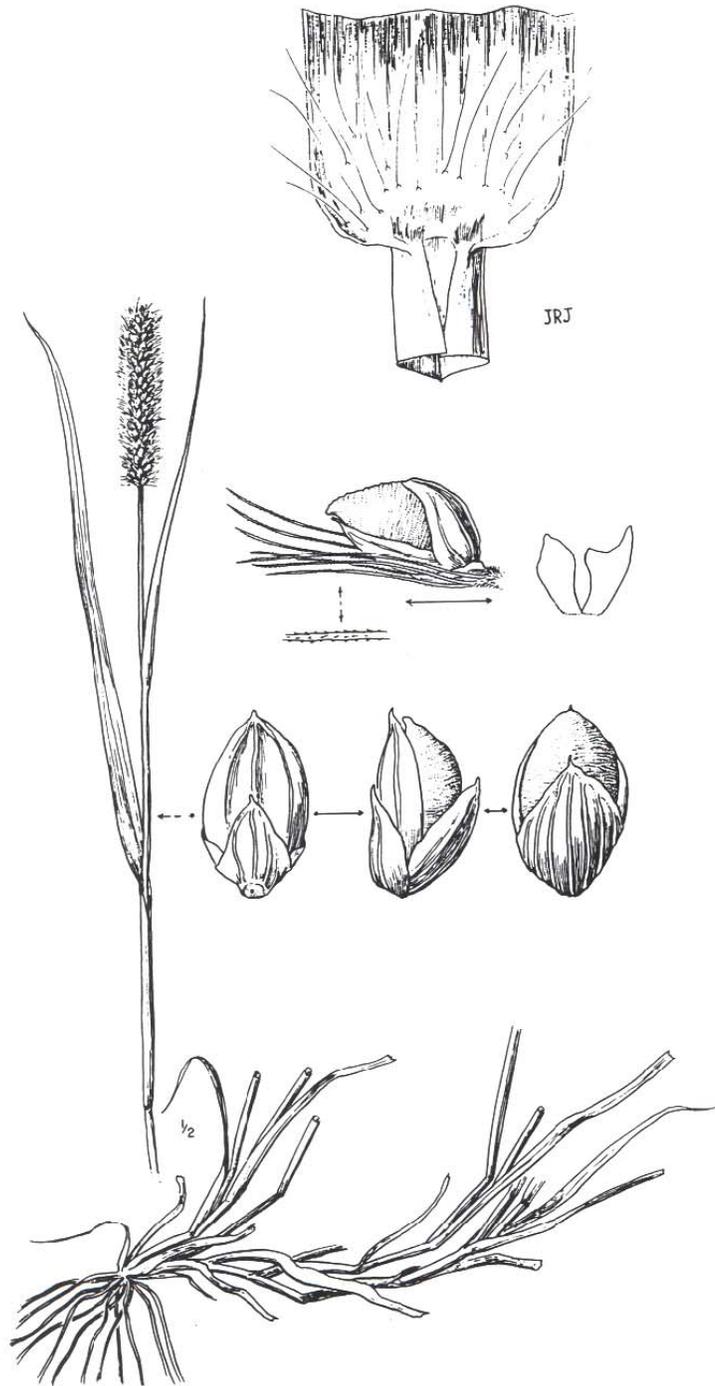
Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem

Comments

Panicles uniformly
thick, erect

Habitat

Upland



Scientific Name

Setaria viridis

Common Name

Bristlegrass

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Introduced

Plant Annual

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

**Leaves Grow Up The
Stem**

Leaves Hairy

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 4-11

Leaf Sheath Compressed

Ligule A Fringe Of Hairs

Collar With Long Hairs

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 1

Stems Bent

Stems Hairy

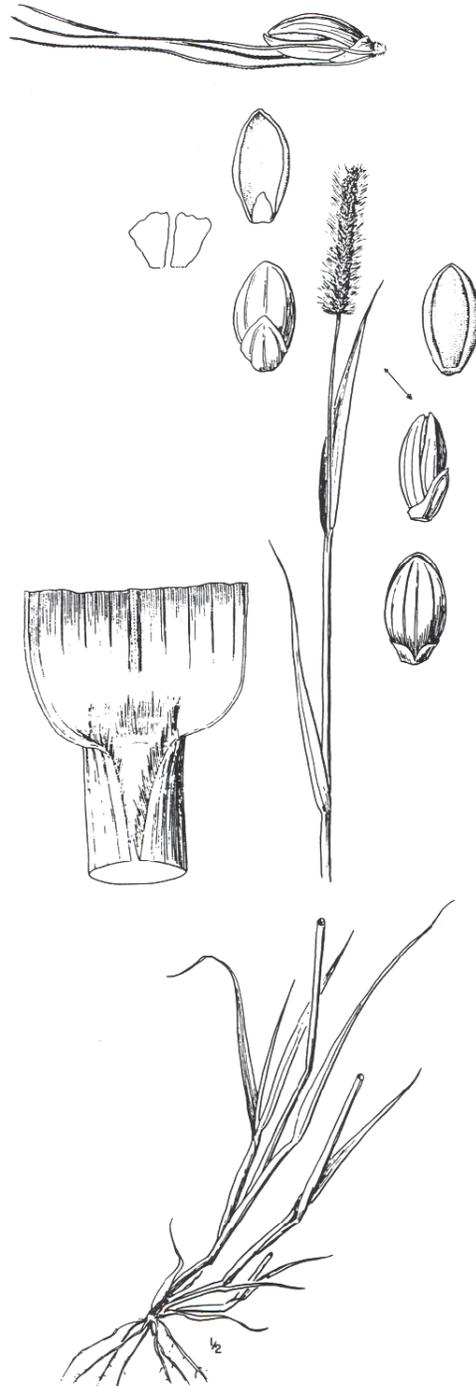
**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2

**Seeds Seem Directly
Attached To Main Stem**

Bloom Period July-August

Comments Panicle nodding only
from near the apicies

Habitat Upland



Scientific Name

Spartina alterniflora

Common Name

Cordgrass

Citation:

Illustration by Linda A. Vorobik and Linda Bea Miller, copied with permission from <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/> Ligule from: Flora of the Pacific Northwest: an illustrated manual. Illustrations by Jeanne R. Janish, CL Hitchcock, A Cronquist - 1976 - Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press copied with permission.

Introduced

Plant Perennial

**Rhizomes Or Stolons -
Sod-Forming**

Leaves Not Hairy

Leaf Tips Strongly Rolled

Leaf Blade Width (mm) > 5

**Leaf Sheath Hairy At
Throat**

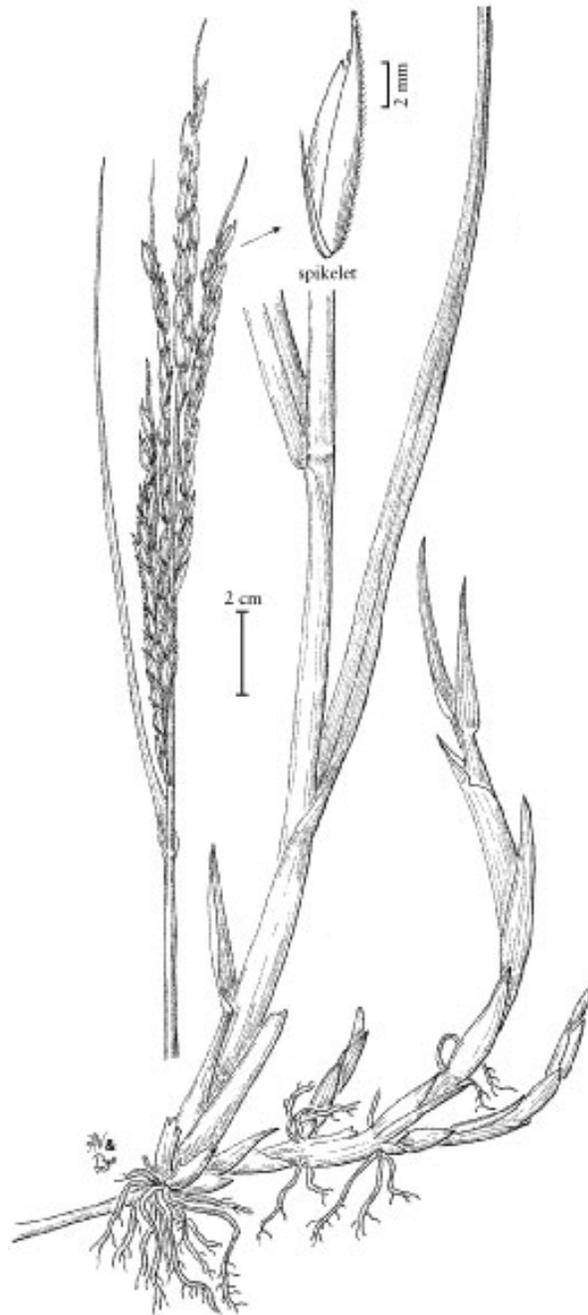
Ligule A Fringe Of Hairs

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 1.5

Bloom Period July-August

Comments Aquatic emergent

Habitat Saline, Wetland



S. alterniflora

Scientific Name

Vulpia ssp.

Common Name

Fescue, Annual

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Introduced

Plant Annual

**Bunchgrass -Tufted -
Caespitose**

Leaf Blade Flat

Leaves Not Hairy

**Leaves Strongly
Rolled/Threadlike**

Leaf Blade Width (mm) 0.5-1.5

Ligule Longest On Sides

**Ligule (Collar) Length
(mm)** 0.2-0.6

**Number Of Florets
(Flowers) Per Spikelet** 2,3,3+

Bloom Period April-May

Habitat Transitional between
Upland and Wetland,
Upland

