COMMON GRASSES OF WESTERN WASHINGTON

Marty Chaney, NRCS West Area Agronomist

Gerald Rouse, NRCS State Range Management Specialist
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agrostis capillaris</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrostis gigantea</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrostis stolonifera</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aira caryophyllea</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alopecurus geniculatus</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alopecurus pratensis</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ammophila arenaria</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthoxanthum aristatum</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthoxanthum odoratum</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrhenatherum elatius</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beckmannia syzigachne</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bromus carinatus</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bromus hordeaceus</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calamagrostis canadensis</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynosurus cristatus</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynosurus echinatus</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylis glomerata</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danthonia californica</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danthonia spicata</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deschampsia caespitosa</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitalis ischaemum</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitalis sanguinalis</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distichlis spicata</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echinochloa crus-galli</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elymus glaucus</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elymus repens</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elymus trachycaulus</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festuca brevipila</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festuca idahoensis ssp. roemeri</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festuca rubra</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glyceria occidentalis</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holcus lanatus</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holcus mollis</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hordeum brachyantherum</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koeleria macrantha</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leersia oryzoides</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leymus mollis</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lolium perenne</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lolium perenne ssp. multiflorum</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lolium temulentum</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phalaris arundinacea</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phleum pratense</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poa annua</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poa bulbosa</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poa compressa</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poa macrantha</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poa palustris</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poa pratensis</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poa trivialis</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedonorus phoenix (Festuca arundinaceae)</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedonorus pratensis</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setaria pumila ssp. pumila</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setaria viridis</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spartina alterniflora</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulpia ssp.</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Scientific Name**

*Agrostis capillaris*

**Common Name**

Bentgrass, Colonial

**Citation:**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduced</th>
<th>Plant Perennial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rhizomes Or Stolons - Sod-Forming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leaf Blade Flat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leaves Grow Up The Stem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leaves Not Hairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf Blade Width (mm)</td>
<td>2-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligule (Collar) Length (mm)</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stems Bent</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloom Period</td>
<td>June-July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salinity Tolerance</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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/](http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Introduced</th>
<th>Plant Perennial</th>
<th>Bunchgrass - Tufted - Caespitose</th>
<th>Leaf Blade Flat</th>
<th>Leaves Grow Up The Stem</th>
<th>Leaves Not Hairy</th>
<th>Leaf Blade Width (mm)</th>
<th>Ligule (Collar) Length (mm)</th>
<th>Stems Bent</th>
<th>Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet</th>
<th>Bloom Period</th>
<th>Salinity Tolerance</th>
<th>Habitat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Agrostis gigantea</em></td>
<td>Bentgrass, Redtop</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>Bunchgrass - Tufted - Caespitose</td>
<td>Flat</td>
<td>grow up the stem</td>
<td>not hairy</td>
<td>3-8</td>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>Bent</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>June-July</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Prairie, Transitional between Upland and Wetland, Upland, Wetland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:**

**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 Florots (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:**


**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:


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 Pazdinková, 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
Scientific Name

*Anthoxanthum aristatum*

Common Name

Vernalgrass, Annual

Citation:


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:

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:


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduced</th>
<th>Plant Perennial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bunchgrass -Tufted - Caespitose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf Blade Flat</td>
<td>Leaves Grow Up The Stem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaves Hairy</td>
<td>Leaves Shiny (Usually)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf Blade Width (mm)</td>
<td>4-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf Sheath Wraps Less Than Halfway Around Stem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligule (Collar) Length (mm)</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stem Bulblike At Base</td>
<td>Stems Bent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stem Nodes Hairy</td>
<td>Stems Hairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stems Root At Lower Nodes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stems Shiny</td>
<td>Awn On Floret Is Bent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awns On Seedhead</td>
<td>Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharply Bent</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloom Period</td>
<td>Habitat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May-June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prairie, Upland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Scientific Name**

Beckmannia syzigachne

**Common Name**

Sloughgrass

**Citation:**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Native</th>
<th>Plant Annual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rhizomes Or Stolons - Sod-Forming</td>
<td>Leaf Blade Flat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaves Grow Up The Stem</td>
<td>Leaves Hairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaves Not Hairy</td>
<td>Leaf Blade Width (mm) 5-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligule With Hairs On Top</td>
<td>Ligule (Collar) Length (mm) 6-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligule Pointed</td>
<td>Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeds Seem Directly Attached To Main Stem</td>
<td>Spikelets Compressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloom Period June-July</td>
<td>Salinity Tolerance Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>Warm Wet Prairie, Wetland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Scientific Name**

*Bromus carinatus*

**Common Name**

Brome, California

**Citation:**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Native</th>
<th>Plant Perennial</th>
<th>Bunchgrass - Tufted - Caespitose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bunchgrass</td>
<td>Caespitose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leaves Grow Up The Stem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leaves Hairy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leaf Blade Width (mm) 7-15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leaf Sheath Closed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collar With Long Hairs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ligule (Collar) Length (mm) 2-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Auricles (Ears) Present - Long</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stems Hairy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet 3+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spikelets Flattened</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bloom Period April-May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>Transitional between Upland and Wetland, Upland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Scientific Name**

Bromus hordeaceus

**Common Name**

Brome, Annual

**Citation:**


**Introduced**

Plant Annual

**Bunchgrass - Tufted - Caespitose**

**Leaf Blade Flat**

**Leaves Grow Up The Stem**

**Leaves Hairy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leaf Blade Width (mm)</th>
<th>2-5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaf Sheath Closed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligule (Collar) Length (mm)</td>
<td>0.5-1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stems Hairy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet</th>
<th>3+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Bloom Period**

April-May

**Habitat**

Upland
Calamagrostis canadensis

Bluejoint

Citation:
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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
Cynosurus cristatus

Dogtail, Crested

Citation:

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:**


**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
**Scientific Name**

Dactylis glomerata

**Common Name**

Orchardgrass

**Citation:**


**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:**

**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:**
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduced</th>
<th>Plant Annual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Warm-Season Grass</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bunchgrass -Tufted - Caespitose</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leaf Blade Flat</strong></td>
<td><strong>Leaves Grow Up The Stem</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leaves Not Hairy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Leaf Blade Width (mm) 4-6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ligule (Collar) Length (mm)</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stems Bent</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stems Hairy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stems Root At Lower Nodes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet 1-2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seedheads Palmate</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bloom Period July-August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comments</strong></td>
<td>Leaf Blades mostly glabrous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Habitat</strong></td>
<td>Transitional between Upland and Wetland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Digitaria ischaemum**

4-6
1
Leaf Blades mostly glabrous
Transitional between Upland and Wetland
**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
Distichlis spicata

Saltgrass, Seashore

Scientific Name

Common Name

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:**


**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:**

**Introduced**

**Plant Perennial**

**Rhizomes Or Stolons** - Sod-Forming

**Rhizomes** - Tough, Wiry

**Leaf Blade** Flat

**Leaf Twisted**

**Leaves Grow Up The Stem**

**Leaves Hairy**

**Leaf Blade Width (mm)** 5-10

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

**Auricles (Ears) Present** - Long

**Stems Hairy**

**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
Elymus trachycaulus

Slender Wheatgrass

Citation:

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
NRCS-WA Pasture Technical Note 102 COMMON GRASSES OF WESTERN WASHINGTON

**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:

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:**


**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:**


**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:**


**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** Sometimes

**Stems Hairy**

**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
Scientific Name

Koeleria macrantha

Common Name

Prairie Junegrass

Citation:

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
**Scientific Name**

Leersia oryzoides

**Common Name**

Rice Cutgrass

**Citation:**


**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
Leymus mollis

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:


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:**


**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:**


**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:**

**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
Phleum pratense

Common Name
Timothy

Citation:

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:


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:


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:**

**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:**


**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:

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
**Scientific Name**

*Poa pratensis*

**Common Name**

Bluegrass, Kentucky

**Citation:**


**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:**


**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

**Citation:**


**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduced</th>
<th>Plant Perennial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaf Blade Width 1-5 Mm</td>
<td>Leaf Blade Flat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaves Shiny (Usually)</td>
<td>Leaf Blade Width (mm) 3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligule (Collar) Length (mm) 0.2</td>
<td>Auricles (Ears) Present Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auricles Hairless</td>
<td>Number Of Florets (Flowers) Per Spikelet 2,3,3+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloom Period May?</td>
<td>Salinity Tolerance Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat Transitional between Upland and Wetland, Upland, Wetland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Scientific Name**
Setaria pumila ssp. pumila

**Common Name**
Bristlegrass

**Citation:**

**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

**Citation:**

**Introduced**
Plant Annual

**Habitat**
Upland

**Bunchgrass -Tufted - Caespitose**

**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
**Scientific Name**

*Spartina alterniflora*

**Common Name**

Cordgrass

**Citation:**

**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
**Scientific Name**

Vulpia ssp.

**Common Name**

Fescue, Annual

**Citation:**

**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