

Poa annua L. (Poaceae)

SPIKELET

Multiple floret spikelet with 2 – 6 similar looking florets with distal florets usually sterile and slightly smaller in size; disarticulation generally above glumes and between florets

FLORET

General shape: lanceolate, laterally compressed, dorsally keeled

Normal size: 2.5 – 4.0 mm long

Color: straw colored, +/- lighter in color near apex

Texture: lemma papery, +/- hairy

Distinguishing features: lemma strongly keeled and prominently 5-veined, veins +/- densely hairy in lower half, apex blunt or tapered to a point, awnless; palea slightly shorter than lemma, keels usually with long, dense hairs along lower $\frac{2}{3}$ of keel and glabrous in upper $\frac{1}{3}$ of keel; rachilla $\frac{1}{3}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the floret, smooth and glabrous; callus blunt, usually glabrous

CARYOPSIS

General shape: broadly ovate, slightly laterally compressed

Normal size: ca. 1.5 mm long x 0.5 – 0.9 mm wide

Color: brown

Texture: smooth, longitudinally striate

Embryo: $\frac{1}{4}$ the length of caryopsis

Endosperm: solid

Hilum: round, basal

Description by Deborah Meyer
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Poa annua caryopsis and florets showing lemma (1), palea (2), and rachilla (3).



Caryopsis in dorsal view (left) showing embryo (4) and lateral view (right) showing hilum (5).

Images by Jim Effenberger