

Hordeum vulgare L. (Poaceae)**Spikelet**

Single floret spikelet with two awn-like glumes grouped three per rachis node; rachis nodes of commercial varieties not disarticulating at maturity, mechanical harvesting and seed lot processing generally breaks apart the spikelets

Floret

General shape: rhombic, lozenge shaped

Size: 6.0-15.0 Lx 2.0-4.5 Wx 1.8-4.0 D mm

Color: straw, yellowish

Texture: lemma and palea papery, smooth with lengthwise veins

Distinguishing features: the broad lemma partly enclosing the palea ; the stiff and straight awn (1) of the lemma (30-180 mm long) normally lost after processing (fragments of the glumes can remain attached to the floret) ; palea wrinkled with ventral groove (2) corresponding to that of caryopsis ; rachilla(3) is short and slender ; lemma and palea adhere to caryopsis.

Caryopsis

General shape: rounded rhombic, lozenge shaped with one ventral and two longitudinal grooves

Size: 7.0-12.0 Lx 2.0-4.5 Wx 1.8-4.0 D mm

Color: whitish brownish

Texture: smooth.

Embryo (4): at the tip of the caryopsis is small, rhombic, the root-shoot axis about $\frac{1}{4}$ the length of the caryopsis.

Endosperm: solid

Hilum: linear, nearly as long as caryopsis, located in ventral longitudinal groove

Florets of *Hordeum vulgare*Caryopsis of *Hordeum vulgare*