

Avena sterilis L. (Poaceae)

Spikelet

Multiple floret spikelet with 2 - 5 similar looking florets with distal florets usually slightly smaller in size; glumes papery, longer than florets; disarticulation of basal floret by abscission above the glumes, disarticulation of upper florets by fracture

Floret

General shape: slim spindle shaped (fusiform), cylindrical

Size: (17) 20.0-25.0 (40) L x 1.5-4.5 x 1.5-4.5 W-D mm

Color: brownish or blackish fading towards the tip, sometimes yellowish

Texture: lemma leathery, smooth and glossy, sometimes with hairs towards the tip

Distinguishing features: teardrop-shaped basal scar (formed by abscission – basal florets only) surrounded with yellowish strong stiff bristles or indistinct basal scar (formed by fracture - upper florets only); rachilla narrow, hairy, with teardrop-shaped or irregularly fractured tip; lemma teeth 1 – 1.5 mm long; awn 30 – 90 mm long, black, twisted, with right angle bend, attached near midpoint of lemma

Note: florets are very similar to *A. fatua* but more robust and have more and stronger hairs.

Caryopsis

General shape: slim spindle shaped (fusiform), dorsal-ventrally compressed, ventral side with longitudinal groove; dorsal side +/- with longitudinal depression in upper third

Size: (9) 18.0-22.0 L x 1.3-4.2 W -D mm

Color: white to straw yellow

Texture: covered with light colored silky hairs

Embryo: at base of caryopsis, small and slim the root-shoot axis about ¼ the length of the caryopsis narrowing to a point at the base; scutellum outline not visible

Endosperm: soft to semi-solid

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



Normal seeds of *Avena sterilis*

Description: Deborah Meyer
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Note: <i>Avena ludoviciana</i> Durieu is now included in <i>Avena sterilis</i>	& Agriculture
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