

*Festuca arundinacea* Schreb. (Poaceae)

**SPIKELET**

Multiple floret spikelet with 3-6 (9) similar looking florets with distal floret usually sterile and slightly smaller in size; disarticulation generally above the glumes and between the florets

**FLORET**

**General shape:** lanceolate, widest near mid-point, not dorsally keeled

**Normal size:** 5.0 – 9.0 (11.5) mm long x 1.5 – 1.75 mm wide

**Color:** straw color to light brown, sometimes green or purple tinged

**Texture:** lemma papery and coarsely granular with short stiff hairs near margins, veins, and near apex; palea papery and coarsely granular

**Distinguishing features:** callus blunt, thick, often with an indentation on upper edge; awn up to 4.0 mm long; palea +/- same length as lemma, keels two, with short stiff hairs along the keels; rachilla slender, round in cross-section with slightly flared disk at apex

**CARYOPSIS**

**General shape:** oblong, oval, or ovate, dorsal-ventrally compressed

**Normal size:** 2.0 – 4.0 mm long x 0.9 x 1.6 mm wide

**Color :** brown, sometimes with purplish tinge

**Texture:** smooth to slightly rough

**Embryo:** 1/5 - 1/3 the length of caryopsis

**Endosperm:** solid

**Hilum:** linear, located in a longitudinal depression

Description by Deborah Meyer  
California Department of Food & Agriculture



Florets and caryopses of *Festuca arundinacea*. A. Ventral view showing palea (1) and rachilla (2). B. Dorsal view showing lemma (3). C. Round, slender rachilla (4) with slightly flared apex. D. Thick callus (5) with slight indentation along upper edge. E. Granular palea texture (6). F. Caryopses, ventral view showing linear hilum (7) in the longitudinal depression and dorsal view showing embryo (8).

Images by Deborah Meyer & Jim Effenberger