

Festuca pratensis Huds. (Poaceae)

SPIKELET

Multiple floret spikelet with 4 – 10 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: dorsal-ventrally compressed; narrowly oval to lanceolate, widest near mid-point, not dorsally keeled

Normal size: 5.0 – 8.0 mm long x 1.5 mm wide

Color: straw color to light brown

Texture: lemma papery and smooth glabrous or with short stiff hairs near apex; palea papery, coarsely granular near base and smooth and lustrous in upper half

Distinguishing features: callus blunt, thick, often with an indentation on upper edge; awn zero or up to 0.2 mm long; palea +/- same length as lemma, keels two, with short stiff hairs along the keels; rachilla slender, round to slightly flattened in cross-section with slightly flared disk at apex

CARYOPSIS

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

Normal size: 3.0 – 4.0 mm long x 1.0 x 1.5 mm wide

Color : brown, sometimes with purplish tinge

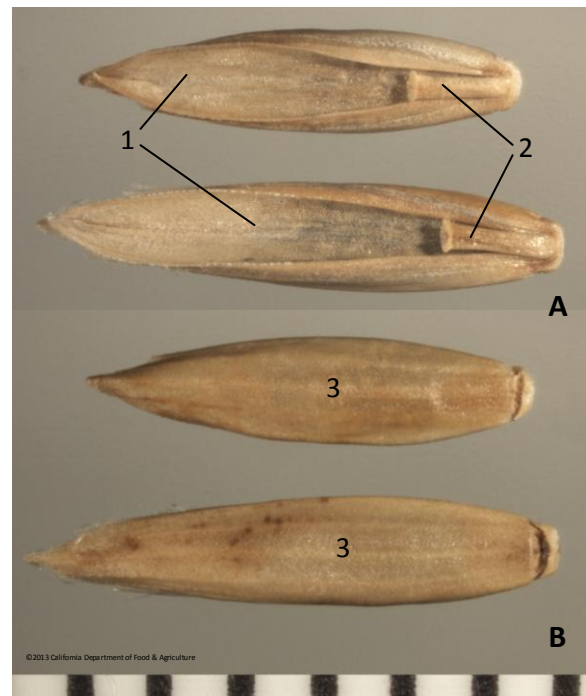
Texture: smooth to slightly rough, lemma and/or palea may be adherent

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 pratensis*. 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. Basal granular palea texture grading into smooth lustrous texture toward apex (6). F. Caryopses, dorsal view showing embryo (7) and ventral view showing linear hilum in longitudinal depression partially concealed by persistent palea fragment (8).

Images by Deborah Meyer & Jim Effenberger