

Poa pratensis L. (Poaceae)

SPIKELET

Multiple floret spikelet with 2 – 5 similar looking florets with distal florets usually sterile and slightly smaller in size; disarticulation generally above glumes and between florets

FLORET

General shape: ovate to lanceolate, laterally compressed, dorsally keeled
Normal size: 2 – 4.3 mm long x 0.8 mm wide
Color: light to dark straw colored, usually darker near the base
Texture: papery, +/- hairy
Distinguishing features: lemma 5 (7)-veined, keel and marginal veins with short hairs, lateral veins prominent, lemma hairy at base in un-milled samples, apex tapering to a point, awnless; palea slightly shorter than lemma, keels with widely spaced coarse hairs, except near apex; rachilla ca. 1/3 the length of the floret (shorter in basal florets and longer in distal florets), glabrous; callus blunt

CARYOPSIS

General shape: narrowly ovate to lanceolate, laterally compressed, triangular in cross-section
Normal size: ca. 1.5 – 1.8 mm long x 0.5 – 0.8 mm wide
Color: brown
Texture: smooth
Embryo: ca. 1/4 the length of caryopsis
Endosperm: solid
Hilum: round, basal

Description by Deborah Meyer
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Poa pratensis caryopses 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 Effenbeger