

Phleum pratense L. (Poaceae)

SPIKELET

Single floret spikelet, disarticulation generally above the glumes.

General shape: U-shaped in lateral view, strongly laterally compressed

Normal size: glumes +/- equal in length, 3 – 4 mm long; both glumes awned, awns 1.0 – 1.5 (2) mm long

Color: straw-colored, +/- green tinged

Texture: papery, keel with numerous long hairs

Distinguishing features: glumes strongly keeled, completely enclosing the single floret, but usually remaining attached to the plant at maturity

FLORET

General shape: elliptic to obovate, not compressed

Normal size: lemma (1.2) 1.7 – 2.0 mm x 0.8 – 0.9 mm wide, ca. ½ as long as glumes

Color: whitish, translucent

Texture: thin papery

Distinguishing features: lemma not keeled, veins 5 – 7 veined; palea +/- equal to lemma length, with two closely spaced veins; callus blunt

CARYOPSIS

General shape: elliptic to obovate, round in cross-section; style base +/- evident as a rounded knob at apex

Normal size: 1.3 – 1.5 mm long x 0.6 – 0.8 mm wide

Color: straw-colored to brown

Texture: reticulate, dull

Embryo: ⅓ the length of the caryopsis

Endosperm: solid

Hilum: dark oval spot

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Phleum pratense caryopses (1) and florets with papery lemmas (2) and paleas (3). Hilum visible as dark spot on ventral caryopsis surface (4).



Caryopses in dorsal view showing the embryo (5) and style base (6).

Images by Jim Effenberger