

*Dactylis glomerata* L. (Poaceae)

**SPIKELET**

Multiple floret spikelet with 2 – 6 florets that disarticulates above the glumes and +/- between florets (glumes may occasionally remain attached to basal floret); lower florets generally fertile, upper florets +/- empty (sterile)

**FLORET**

**General shape:** laterally compressed, strongly keeled, lanceolate in outline, three-sided in cross-section

**Normal size:** 4.0 – 8.0 mm long

**Color:** straw colored

**Texture:** lemma papery with short stiff hairs, sparsely pubescent or glabrous, usually with long hairs along keel; lemma margins hyaline

**Distinguishing features:** lemma tapering to a short awn, 0.2 – 1.5 mm long; palea 2-keeled, slightly shorter than lemma, +/- hairy; rachilla up to ¼ the length of floret, cylindrical, flared at apex; callus blunt and glabrous

**CARYOPSISIS**

**General shape:** elliptic or lanceolate to oblong, three-sided in cross-section, usually with broad longitudinal groove on ventral surface

**Normal size :** 1.0 – 3.2 mm long x 0.5 – 1.0 mm wide

**Color :** brown

**Texture:** glabrous

**Embryo:** ¼ the length of caryopsis

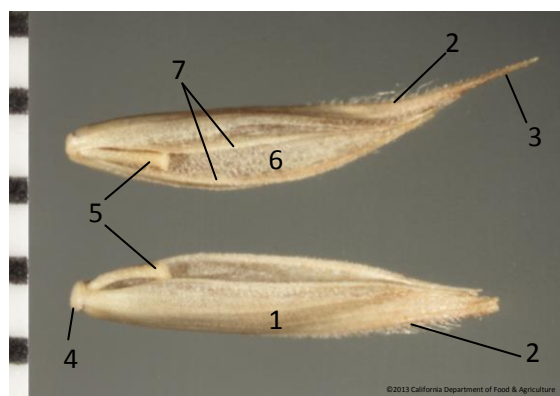
**Endosperm:** soft

**Hilum:** round, near base of ventral groove

Description by Deborah Meyer  
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*Dactylis glomerata* florets and caryopses.



Florets showing lemma (1) keel (2) with long hairs, awn (3), callus (4), rachilla with flared apex (5) and palea (6) with keels (7).

Caryopsis in dorsal view (left) showing embryo (5) and ventral view (right) showing round hilum (6) at base of broad ventral groove



Images by Deborah Meyer & Jim Effenberger