

Avena fatua L. (Poaceae)**Spikelet**

Multiple floret spikelet with 2 - 3 similar looking florets with distal florets usually slightly smaller in size; spikelet usually shatters at maturity, glumes papery, longer than florets; disarticulation by abscission above the glumes and between the florets. The florets of *Avena fatua* may vary considerably in size, color and character of pubescence.

Floret

General shape: slim spindle shaped (fusiform), cylindrical

Size: 12.0-20.0 (22.0) L x 1.5-2.5 W x 1.5-2.5 D mm

Color: brownish or blackish fading towards the tip, sometimes yellowish

Texture: lemma leathery, smooth and glossy, sometimes with hairs towards the top

Distinguishing features: basal scar (1)(formed by abscission) horseshoe-shaped (but sometimes also described as "round, ovate, or triangular" surrounded with yellowish stiff bristles; rachilla hairy, tip narrow horseshoe or diamond-shaped(2); lemma teeth 0.3 – 1.5 mm long; awn (3) 23 – 44 mm long, black, twisted, with right angle bend, attached near mid-point of lemma

Caryopsis

General shape: slim spindle shaped (fusiform), dorsal-ventrally compressed, ventral side flat with longitudinal groove; dorsal side +/- with longitudinal depression in upper half

Size: 6-12.0 L x 1.3-2.3 W x 1.3-2.4 D mm

Color: white to straw yellow

Texture: smooth, covered with light-colored silky hairs

Embryo: at base of caryopsis, small and slim, the root-shoot axis less than 1/3 the length of

Florets of *Avena fatua*

Florets and caryopsis

<p>the caryopsis, extending to a fine point at the base; scutellum (4) outline not visible Endosperm: soft to semi-solid Hilum: linear, nearly as long as caryopsis, located in longitudinal groove Description: Deborah Meyer California Department of Food & Agriculture</p>	
---	--