

***Setaria viridis* (L.)P.Beauv. (Poaceae)**

**Spikelet**

One sterile floret and one fertile floret, disarticulation below the glumes, falling as a unit from the plant

**General shape:** elliptic or ovate; dorsal-ventrally compressed, dorsal side arched and ventral side flat (D-shaped in profile view)

**Normal size:** 1.8 – 3.2 L x 0.9 – 1.2 W x 0.8 – 1.0 D mm

**Color:** pale green to straw-colored

**Texture:** glumes and sterile floret membranous to papery

**Distinguishing features:** lower glume 1/4 – 1/3 the length of the spikelet, 3-veined, broadly triangular, the outer corners wrapping around the base of the upper glume; upper glume ovate, equal to the length of spikelet, 5-veined; sterile floret equal to length of spikelet, palea half in length to sterile lemma, hyaline

**Floret**

**General shape:** flat convex, elliptic in outline

**Size:** 2.0 – 3.0 L x 1.0-1.3 W x 1.2-1.5 D mm

**Color:** greenish-yellow often with a brown or violet tint; veins lighter in color

**Texture:** lemma hardened, finely ridged; palea hardened, rough textured between keels; margins smooth and glossy

**Distinguishing features:** lemma margin in-rolled over palea margin; awnless.

**Caryopsis**

**General shape:** elliptic with a rounded apex.

**Size:** 1.5 – 2.3 L x 0.8 – 1.1 W x 1.1-1.4 D mm

**Color:** grayish or greenish



Spikelets and florets of *Setaria viridis* under magnification

<p><b>Texture:</b> smooth and dull</p> <p><b>Embryo:</b> about 2/3 the length of the caryopsis.</p> <p><b>Endosperm:</b> solid</p> <p><b>Hilum:</b> dark round to oval spot near base of ventral surface</p> <p>Description: Deborah Meyer California Department of Food &amp; Agriculture</p>	
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Note: at least one normal size photo is needed for every species or genus. The ones typed grey are optional but regarded useful.