

***Hordeum vulgare* L. subsp. *vulgare* (Poaceae)**

**Spikelet**

Single floret spikelet with two awn-like glumes grouped three per rachis node; rachis nodes of commercial varieties not disarticulating at maturity, mechanical harvesting and seed lot processing generally breaks apart the spikelets

**Floret**

**General shape:** rhombic, lozenge shaped

**Size:** 6.0-15.0 Lx 2.0-4.5 Wx 1.8-4.0 D mm

**Color:** straw, yellowish

**Texture:** lemma and palea papery, smooth with lengthwise veins

**Distinguishing features:** the broad lemma partly enclosing the palea ; the stiff and straight awn (1) of the lemma (30-180 mm long) normally lost after processing (fragments of the glumes can remain attached to the floret) ; palea wrinkled with ventral groove (2) corresponding to that of caryopsis ; rachilla(3) is short and slender ; lemma and palea adhere to caryopsis.

**Caryopsis**

**General shape:** rounded rhombic, lozenge shaped with one ventral and two longitudinal grooves

**Size:** 7.0-12.0 Lx 2.0-4.5 Wx 1.8-4.0 D mm

**Color:** whitish brownish

**Texture:** smooth.

**Embryo (4):** at the tip of the caryopsis is small, rhombic, the root-shoot axis about ¼ the length of the caryopsis.

**Endosperm:** solid

**Hilum:** linear, nearly as long as caryopsis, located in ventral longitudinal groove



Florets of *Hordeum vulgare*



Caryopsis of *Hordeum vulgare*