

Agrostis sp. (Poaceae)

SPIKELET

General shape: lanceolate
Normal size: (1.0) 2.0 – 4.0 (7.0) mm long x +/- 0.5 mm wide depending on species
Color: pale straw colored to tan, sometimes green to purple tinged
Texture: usually thin and membranous, lustrous to dull
Distinguishing features: glumes completely enclose a single floret (excluding the awn in some species), +/- keeled, +/- with short stiff hairs especially on keels, apices tapered to a +/- sharp point ((keel, hairs & apex characters species dependent).

FLORET

General shape: lanceolate, oblong, ovate
Normal size: (0.5) 1.0 – 2.5 (4.0) mm long x +/- 0.5 mm wide depending on species
Color: white to pale straw colored
Texture: glabrous, membranous, +/- lustrous
Distinguishing features: palea +/- present, if present the length and apex shape will vary depending on the species; lemma thin membranous to hyaline, usually smooth, glabrous, sometimes with short stiff hairs or pubescent; lemma awn +/- present, if present the length, shape (straight or bent), and attachment point (basal, mid-lemma, apical) will vary depending on the species; rachilla +/- present; callus hairs +/- present, short to nearly half the length of lemma (all features species dependent)

CARYOPSIS

General shape: oval, slightly dorsal-ventrally compressed
Normal size : (0.6) 0.8 – 1.3 (2.0) mm long x 0.3 – 0.5 mm wide
Color : reddish-brown to brown
Texture: smooth to slight roughened
Embryo: about ¼ - ⅓ the length of the caryopsis
Endosperm: hard, soft or liquid depending on species
Hilum: oval

Description by Deborah Meyer
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Agrostis capillaris spikelet (1) and florets showing long hairs (2) along the callus (3) and lemma (4) with awn. In this species the awn attachment point is basal (5) and the awn is bent near the mid-point (6).



Agrostis capillaris floret in palea view (left) - note palea (5) shorter than caryopsis (in this species); caryopsis in dorsal view (middle) showing the embryo (6) and ventral view (right) showing basal hilum (7).

Images by Jim Effenberger