

# POACEAE [GRAMINEAE] – GRASS FAMILY

**Plant:** annuals or perennials

**Stem:** jointed stem is termed a culm – internodial stem most often hollow but always solid at node, mostly round, some with stolons (creeping stem) or rhizomes (underground stem)

**Root:** usually fibrous, often very abundant and dense

**Leaves:** mostly linear, sessile, parallel veins, in 2 ranks (vertical rows), leaf sheath usually open or split and often overlapping, but may be closed

**Flowers:** small in 2 rows forming a spikelet (1 to several flowers), may be 1 to many spikelets with pedicels or sessile to stem; each flower within a spikelet is between an outer lemma (bract, with a midrib) and an inner palea (bract, 2-nerved or keeled usually) – these 3 parts together make the floret – the 2 bottom bracts of the spikelet do not have flowers and are termed glumes (may be reduced or absent), the rachilla is the axis that hold the florets; sepals and petals absent; 1-6 but often 3 stamens; 1 pistil, 1-3 but usually 2 styles, ovary superior, 1 ovule – there are exceptions to most everything!!

**Fruit:** seed-like grain (seed usually fused to the pericarp (ovary wall) or not)

**Other:** very large and important family; Monocotyledons Group

**Genera:** 600+ genera; locally many genera

2 slides per species

# POACEAE [GRAMINEAE] – ORYZEAE

Catchfly [Oatmeal] Grass; *Leersia lenticularis* Michx. - Oryzeae (Tribe)

White Grass [White Cutgrass]; *Leersia virginica* Willd. - Oryzeae (Tribe)

# Catchfly [Oatmeal] Grass – p1

*Leersia lenticularis* Michx.

Poaceae (Grass Family); Oryzeae (Tribe)

Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Stoddard

County, Missouri

Notes: Plant perennial, to 1.5+ m, often smaller; Culm motly erect, terete to somewhat flattened, branched or not; nodes with downward pointed hairs; Roots fibrous, with rhizomes; Leaf Blades to 2+ cm wide, up to 35+ cm long, glabrous or hairy, rough on edges; Leaf Sheaths glabrous or often with small downward pointed hairs (rough), open usually; Ligules membranous; Inflorescence an open panicle (up to 25 cm tall), 1 or 2 branches (spreading) per node; Spikelets (oval to near circular) to 5+ mm by 4+ mm wide with one fertile floret (see photos on p2), oriented (stacked) along one side of axis on short stalks; Glumes present but just a small cup-like structure; 2 anthers present; mostly in wet areas; summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2013]



Many downward oriented bristles on sheath – very rough

Nodes with downward pointed hairs



Thin scaly rhizomes

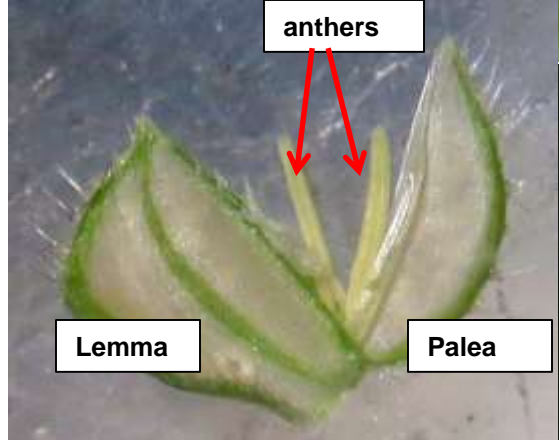
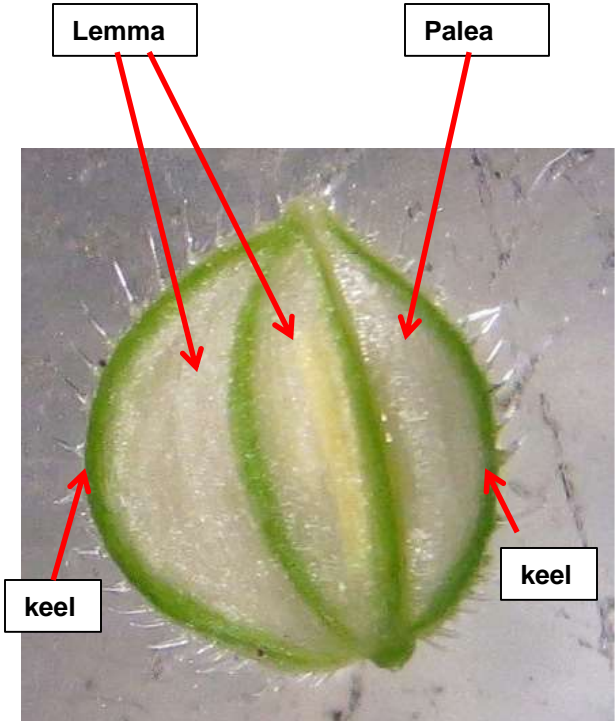


# Catchfly [Oatmeal] Grass – p2

*Leersia lenticularis* Michx.

[V Max Brown, 2013]

Spikelets of 1 fertile floret (2 anthers), oval to nearly circular, 3-4+ mm wide, glumes present only as a small cup at base of spikelet, spikelets oriented along 1 side of axis



Some Nerves with prominent hairs, especially keels



This spikelet 4 mm wide, 4+ mm long (high)



# White Grass [White Cutgrass] – p1

*Leersia virginica* Willd.

Poaceae (Grass Family); Oryzeae (Tribe)

Ozarks Technical College walking trail, Christian County, Missouri

**Notes:** Plant perennial, to 1.5 m, often smaller; Culm terete to somewhat flattened, nodes swollen, greenish and hairy; Roots fibrous, with rhizomes; Leaf Blades to 1.5 cm wide, up to 20 cm long, hairy and rough or not; Leaf Sheaths hairy or not – often with downward pointed hairs, open usually; Ligules membranous; Inflorescence an open panicle (up to 25 cm tall), 1 branch(spreading) per node; Spikelets to 3.5+ mm by 1+ mm wide with one fertile floret (see photos on p2), oriented along one side of axis on short stalks; Glumes present but just a small cup-like structure; 2 anthers present; various habitats; summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2013]



# White Grass [White Cutgrass] – p2

*Leersia virginica* Willd.

[V Max Brown, 2013]

Spikelet (opposite views)

Palea (3 nerved)

Lemma (5 nerved, ciliate or not)

3 mm

Glumes a cup-like structure at base of spikelet

Spikelets often appressed and somewhat wrapping around stalk of next spikelet and axis, spikelets oriented along 1 side of axis

Spikelets stalked, all Fertile with 2 anthers

