

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] – BAMBUSEAE TRIBE

Cane [Large or Giant Cane]; *Arundinaria gigantea* (Walt.) Muhl. - Bambuseae (Tribe)

Cane [Large or Giant Cane] – p1

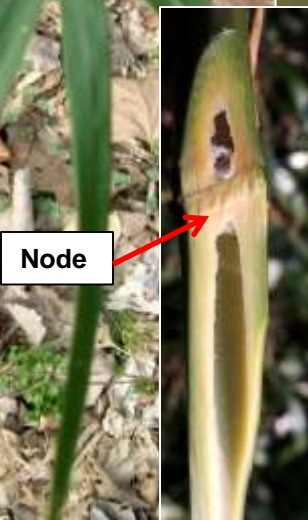
Arundinaria gigantea (Walt.) Muhl.

Poaceae (Grass Family); Bambuseae (Tribe)

Sam A. Baker State Park, Wayne County,
Missouri

Notes: plant perennial, erect to 4-5 m; culm woody, well branched, culm over-winters; roots fibrous, with rhizomes producing new culms in spring; 10-20 leaves per axis, short petiole, usually somewhat hairy beneath; leaf sheaths glabrous or hairy but usually hairy on margins; ligules composed of bristles; flowers infrequently (commonly spreads by rhizomes, inflorescence a panicle either from a leafy culm or from a non-leafy culm rising from a rhizome; spikelets up to 5 cm; up to 10+ florets, a few may be sterile near the tip; often forms “canebrakes”; summer

[V Max Brown, 2006]



Cane [Large or Giant Cane] – p2

Arundinaria gigantea (Walt.) Muhl.
[V Max Brown, 2013]

Inflorescence here are panicles from nodes



Lemma



Palea

Fruit stage



Upper glume

Lower glume



Flower stage

Spikelet of 4 to 12 perfect florets (sometimes one or more terminal sterile florets)

