

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] – DIARRHENEAE TRIBE

Obovate [American] Beakgrain; *Diarrhena obovata* (Gleason) Brandenburg - Diarrheneae (Tribe)

Obovate [American] Beakgrain- p1

Diarrhena obovata (Gleason) Brandenburg
Poaceae (Grass Family); Diarrheneae (Tribe)
Nixa, Christian County, Missouri

Notes: Plant perennial, erect, from short to 1+ m, leaves mostly from basal area; Culm terete; Roots fibrous, stout rhizomes; upper surface of Leaf Blades scabridulous as well as on edges; Leaf Sheaths, mostly glabrous, usually open to node; Ligules membranous and slightly ciliate; Inflorescence a panicle with ascending branches, rachis and branches scabribulous; Spikelets 7 to 15+ mm; usually with 3-5 Florets, uppermost often sterile; lower glume about half size of upper glume; Limma averaging 6-8 mm, upper part abruptly terminated with short awn; calluses glabrous; fruit abruptly narrowed to a beak; woodland species; summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2013]



Ligule membranous, slightly hairy



Midvein off-center

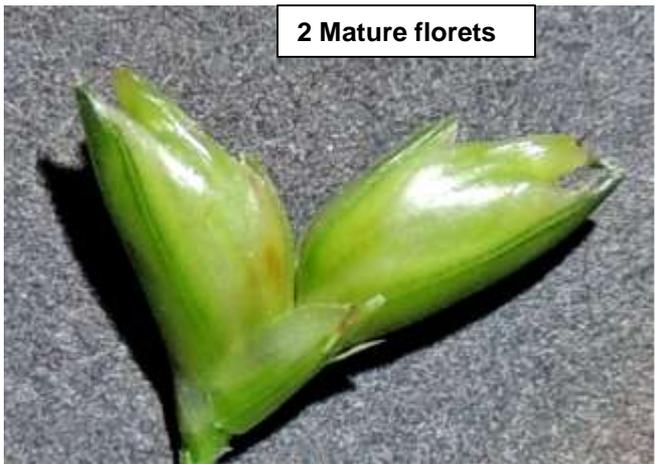
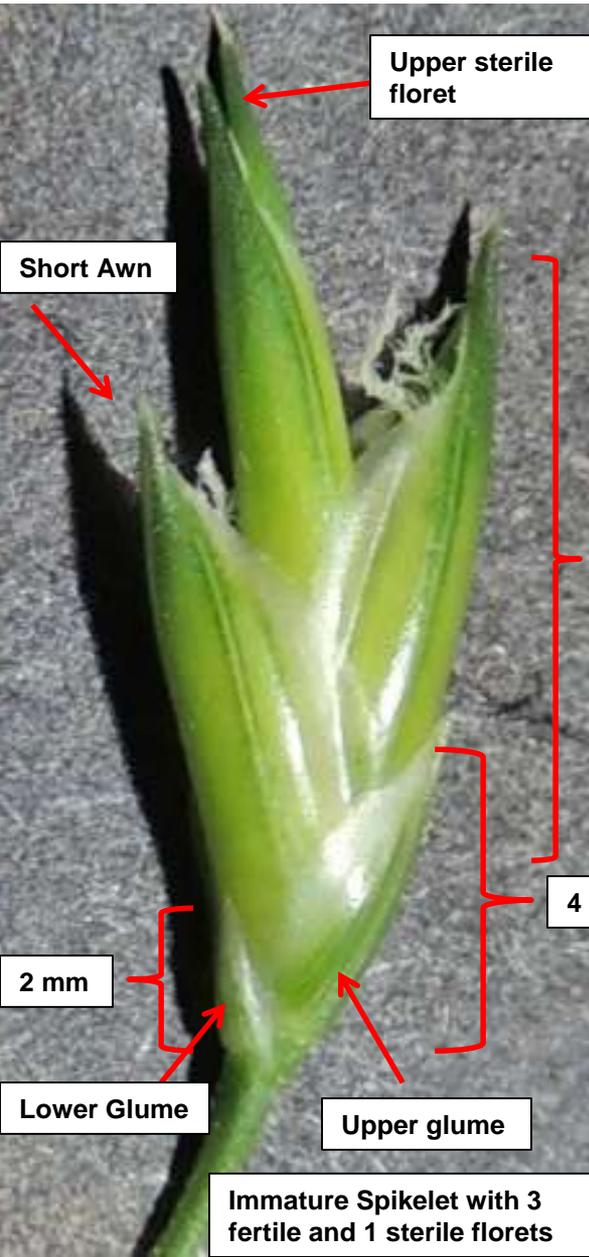


rhizomes

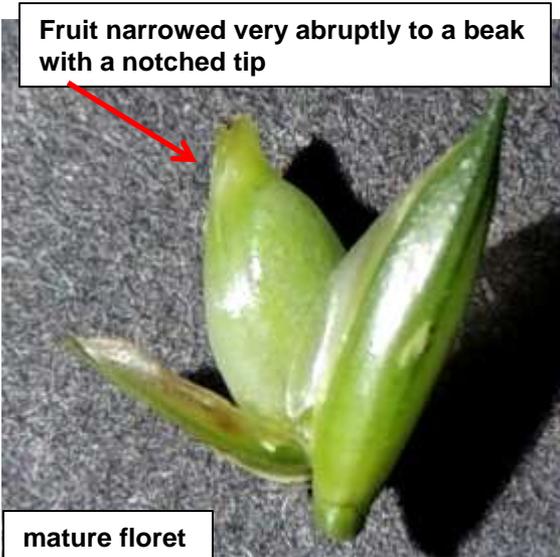


Obovate [American] Beakgrain- p2

Diarrhena obovata (Gleason) Brandenburg
[V Max Brown, 2013]



Lemma
7-8 mm



3 Spikelets

