

# 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] – DANTHONIEAE TRIBE

Poverty Oatgrass; *Danthonia spicata* (L.) P. Beauv. Ex Roem. & Schult.

# Poverty Oatgrass – p1

*Danthonia spicata* (L.) P. Beauv. Ex Roem. & Schult.

Poaceae (Grass Family); Danthoneieae (Tribe)

Wire Road Conservation Area, Stone County, Missouri

Notes: Plant perennial, tufted, erect, up to 70+ cm; Culm terete, without rhizomes; Roots fibrous; Leaf Blades nearly glabrous to very hairy, mostly flat, up to 3+ mm wide; Leaf sheath nearly glabrous to very hairy; Ligule of hairs; Inflorescence a raceme or panicle with 5 to 10+ spikelets, some also occur in leaf axils; spikelets 7 to 14+ mm long with 4 to 9+ florets; both glumes present, sharp-pointed, slightly longer than body of floret (see photos); lemmas pilose with apical teeth and awned (become twisted and bent with maturity); found in many habitats, often on disturbed ground; late spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2014]



Note tuff of hairs at base of leaf blade

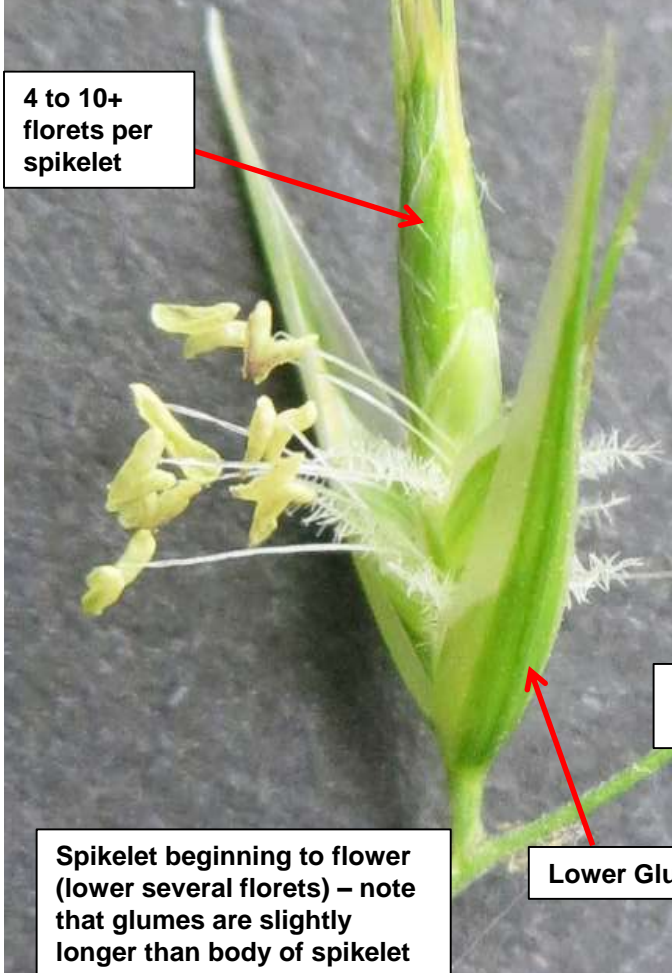
**Poverty Oatgrass – p2**  
*Danthonia spicata* (L.) P. Beauv. Ex Roem. & Schult.  
 [V Max Brown, 2014]



A single floret, more mature and somewhat dried, pilose, showing twisted and bent awn and apical lemma teeth



4 to 10+ florets per spikelet



Spikelet beginning to flower (lower several florets) – note that glumes are slightly longer than body of spikelet

Upper glume

Lower Glume

Spikelet – this one 9.5 mm without awns (13.5 mm total)

