

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] – CENTOTHECEAE TRIBE

Indian Woodoats [River, Wild Oats]; *Chasmanthium latifolium* (Michx.) Yates - Centotheceae (Tribe)

Indian Woodoats [River, Wild Oats] – p1

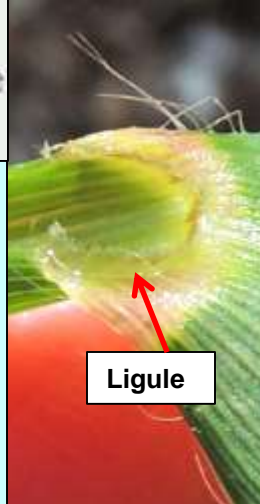
Chasmanthium latifolium (Michx.) Yates

Poaceae (Grass Family); Centothecae (Tribe)

Busiek State Forest and Wildlife Area, Christian County,
Missouri

Notes: Plant perennial; erect; Culm mostly terete, flowering stem erect (up to 1.5 m); Roots fibrous with stout rhizomes; Leaf Blades up to 1 to 2 cm, up to 25+ cm long, mostly glabrous; Leaf Sheaths mostly glabrous; Ligules membranous (up to 1 mm); Inflorescence an open panicle, nodding at maturity but ascending early; Spikelets on long pediceles, form 1.5 to 4 mm long; Florets (6 to 15+), usually with 1 to 3 basal sterile florets; lower glume smaller than upper (5-7 veined, upper glume with 5-9 veins); Lemmas up to 1.2 cm, broader than glumes, keeled with wings; Palea smaller than lemma; seed hidden at maturity; stream banks and rich woods; summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2013]



Indian Woodoats [River, Wild Oats] – p2

Chasmanthium latifolium (Michx.) Yates
[V Max Brown, 2013]

Inflorescence with spikelets strongly nodding at maturity (may be ascending when young)

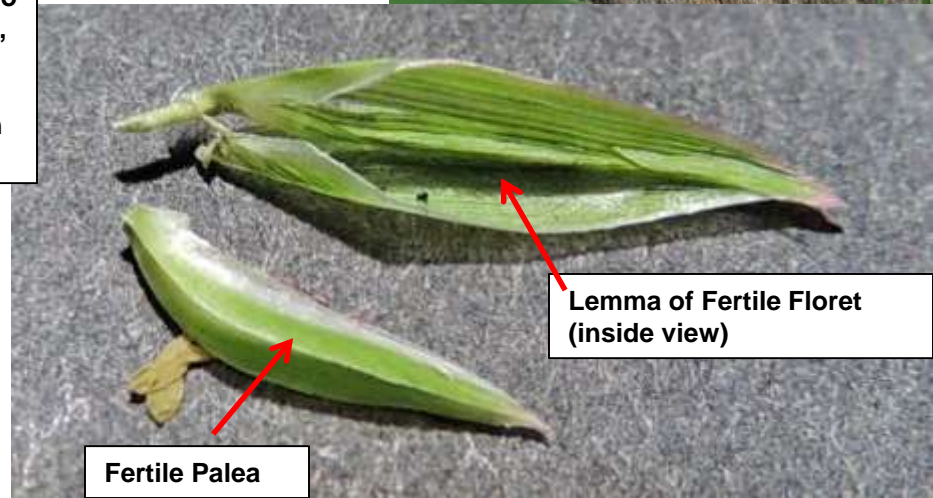


6 to 15+ Fertile Florets, strongly flattened, up to 0.6 to 1.3 cm in length, 11 to 15 veined, keels of lemmas winged

1 (in this case) to 3 Sterile Florets, usually more lanceolate (narrower) than Fertile Florets

Upper Glume, 5-9 veined

Lower Glume, 5 to 7 veins



Fertile Palea

Lemma of Fertile Floret (inside view)