

Grasses Part 2 - Course Handout

		LEAF	VEGETATIVE FEATURES	FLOWERS	Habitat
<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	Marsh Foxtail	Very bent at nodes	Slightly glaucous tinge, creeping	Slender microphone flower head with single awns	
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	Slight knee-like bend at node	Inflated sheaths, with dead brown remains	Furry microphone flower head with single awns	MG/WG
<i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>	Tor-grass	Tough leaves, hairs confined to sheaths	Grows in dense erect yellowish clumps	Flowers have faint zebra strips	CG
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False Brome	Wide leaves; yellowish, soft and hairy, floppy	Loose tussocks up to 60cm tall	Long dangly unbranched flower heads	RV/CG/WO
<i>Bromopsis ramosa</i>	Hairy-brome	Very tall with bristly hairy stems and leaves	Sometimes pointed auricles wrapped around stem	Dangly flower head with branches in pairs	WO
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft-brome	Soft hairy leaves, stems and fruits	Dark green	Flower head erect with swollen heads	MG/CH
<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	Floating Sweet-grass	Tramlines and keels, big raggedy ligules	Lying flat on water or in mud as well as erect.	Glume edge translucent and simple	WE
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Reed Sweet-grass	Huge with wide reed-like leaves. Folded	Before flowering stands of pale green leaves	Very branched large flowerhead	WE
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping soft-grass	Very soft but hairless leaves	Hairy nodes, hairless below	Soft white spike	WO
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	Long overlapping auricles	Dog wee areas, inflated sheaths	Long spiky awns on inflorescence, 4x length of fruit	CG/RV
<i>Hordeum secalinum</i>	Meadow Barley	Mini pointy auricles	Tight sheaths	Short spikelet, Awns 2x length of fruit	MG
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Crested Hair-grass	Sparsely downy throughout	Leaves glaucous, hairy on top with parallel grooves	Inflorescence narrow oblong, shiny. Opens up to flower	CG
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood Melick	Leaves slightly hairy above, rough below	Leaf sheath prolonged into a bristle	Loose dangling purple-brown rice-like heads	WO
<i>Milium effusum</i>	Wood Millet	Leaves arranged in loose tussocks	Sheaths are pale, ligules pointed	V. tall with panicles forming loose whorls	WO
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple Moor-grass	Young leaves with purple hue, tussock forming	Ligule – ‘ring of hairs’; persistent dead leaves	Purple feathery flowerheads, persisting white in winter	H/M
<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Smaller Cat's-tail	Lower leaves up to 12cm long	Swollen base of stem	Microphone-like spike 1-6cm, double awned (Batman)	CG/MG
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy	Lower leaves up to 45cm long	Swollen base of stem	Microphone-like spike 6-15cm, double awned (Batman)	MG/RV
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	Short leaves with transverse wrinkles; tramlines	Can be minute, prostrate or sprawling	Small branched head pointing to one side	RV/MG/CG/UR
<i>Poa nemoralis</i>	Wood Meadow-grass	Very slender shiny leaves; tramlines	Leaves often sprawl over ground	Branched head, delicate, yet clumpy	WO
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-	Leaves contract suddenly at tips; tramlines	Short erect stem leaf, smooth stems. Slightly	Short ligule on flower stem. Delicate clumpy head	RV/MG/CG
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass	Leaves flaccid and gradually tapering; tramlines	Noticeably rough feel to upper sheath.	Long ligule on flower stem. Delicate clumpy head	MG/WE
<i>Schedonorus</i>	Tall Fescue	Deeply veined rough leaves; rough white sheath	Large ciliate (when young) clasping auricles	Loose drooping panicle with dense spikes	MG/RV
<i>Schedonorus giganteus</i>	Giant Fescue	Wide waxy dark droopy leaves. Rough if rubbed	Large clasping red/purple auricles; purple nodes	Large drooping panicle with small spikelets	W/RV
<i>Schedonorus pratensis</i>	Meadow Fescue	Leaves <4mm, fine toothed margins	Small clear hairless auricles; sheaths smooth	Single branched panicle, clumpy fruits	MG/CG/RV
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Yellow Oat-grass	Leaves hairy above	Sheaths only hairy at base of plant, short ligule	Dense feathery heads with 3 long bent awns	CG/MG

Habitat. CG - Calcareous grassland, MG - Neutral Grassland, WG - Damp Grassland, H - Heath and Acid Grassland, WO - Woodland, M - Mire/bog, RV - Road verge, wasteland, WE - Wetland/Aquatic, UR - Urban