

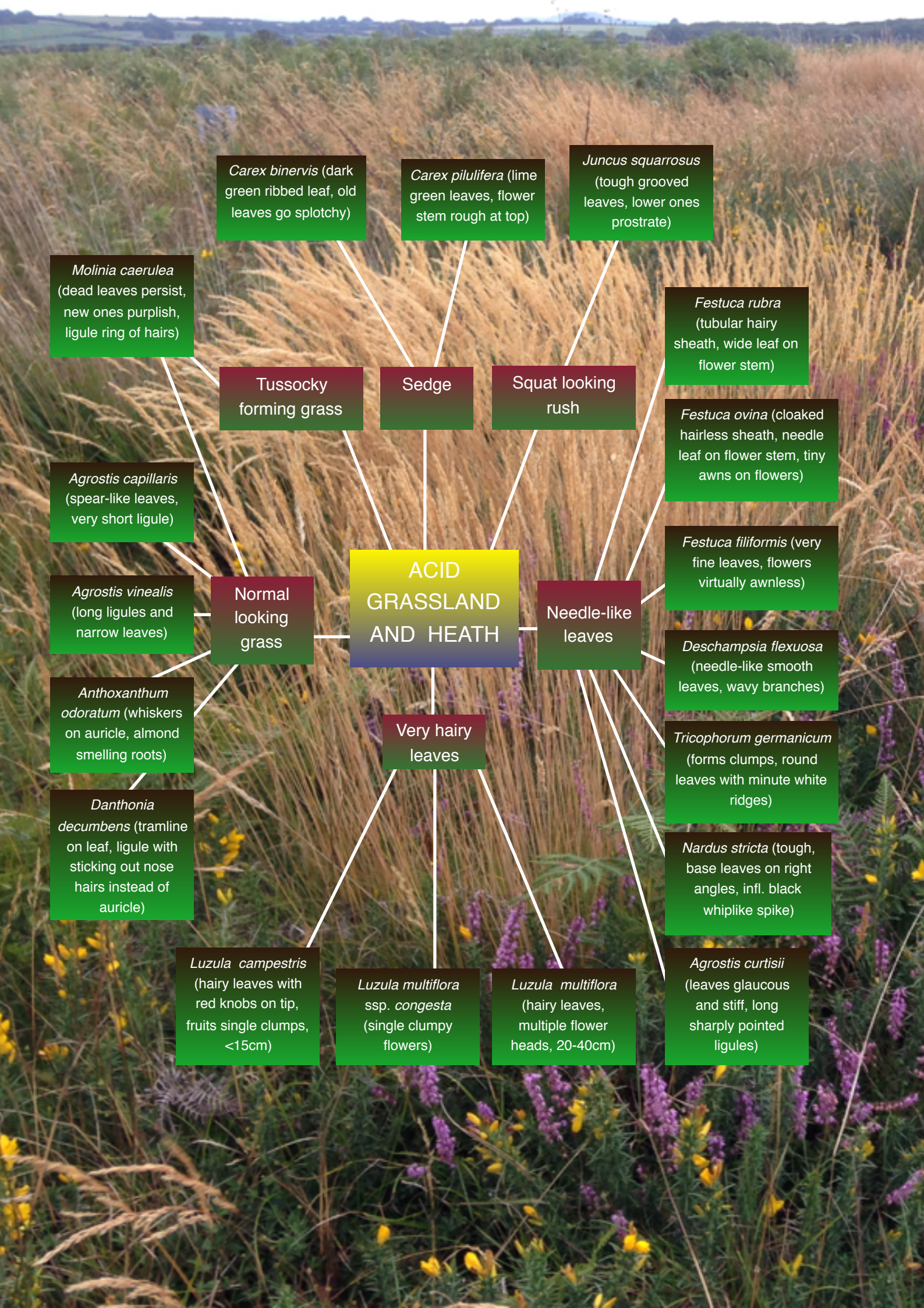
Extract from 'A Field Guide to  
Grasses, Sedges and Rushes'  
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<u><i>Agrostis capillaris</i></u>	<u>Common Bent</u>
<u><i>Agrostis curtisii</i></u>	<u>Bristle Bent</u>
<u><i>Agrostis vinealis</i></u>	<u>Brown Bent</u>
<u><i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i></u>	<u>Sweet Vernal Grass</u>
<u><i>Carex binervis</i></u>	<u>Green-ribbed Sedge</u>
<u><i>Carex pilulifera</i></u>	<u>Pill Sedge</u>
<u><i>Danthonia decumbens</i></u>	<u>Heath-grass</u>
<u><i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i></u>	<u>Wavy Hair-grass</u>
<u><i>Festuca filiformis</i></u>	<u>Fine-leaved Fescue</u>
<u><i>Festuca ovina</i></u>	<u>Sheep's-fescue</u>
<u><i>Festuca rubra</i></u>	<u>Red Fescue</u>
<u><i>Juncus squarrosus</i></u>	<u>Heath Rush</u>
<u><i>Luzula campestris</i></u>	<u>Field Wood-rush</u>
<u><i>Luzula multiflora</i></u>	<u>Heath Wood-rush</u>
<u><i>Luzula multiflora</i> ssp <i>congesta</i></u>	<u>Dense-headed Heath Wood-rush</u>
<u><i>Molinia caerulea</i></u>	<u>Purple Moor-grass</u>
<u><i>Nardus stricta</i></u>	<u>Mat-grass</u>
<u><i>Trichophorum germanicum</i></u>	<u>Deergrass</u>

Acid grassland is an unusual habitat, existing only where levels of grazing maintain open conditions on acidic soils. It has a tendency to either be very tightly grazed, as is seen in much of the uplands, or under-grazed, where it is soon overtaken by the growth of ranker grasses (especially in damper conditions). In the former situation the tight sward means many of the grasses grow in miniature and vegetative form, and most identification has to be carried out in the absence of inflorescences.

Heathland supports a narrow range of rather distinctive grasses, many of which possess slender and needle-like leaves as an adaption to the dry soils this habitat develops on. Several species, including Mat-grass and Heath Rush show high levels of resistance to grazing with specially adapted leaves.





## ACID GRASSLAND AND HEATH

Tussocky  
forming grass

Sedge

Squat looking  
rush

Normal  
looking  
grass

Needle-like  
leaves

Very hairy  
leaves

*Carex binervis* (dark  
green ribbed leaf, old  
leaves go splotchy)

*Carex pilulifera* (lime  
green leaves, flower  
stem rough at top)

*Juncus squarrosus*  
(tough grooved  
leaves, lower ones  
prostrate)

*Molinia caerulea*  
(dead leaves persist,  
new ones purplish,  
ligule ring of hairs)

*Festuca rubra*  
(tubular hairy  
sheath, wide leaf on  
flower stem)

*Agrostis capillaris*  
(spear-like leaves,  
very short ligule)

*Festuca ovina* (cloaked  
hairless sheath, needle  
leaf on flower stem, tiny  
awns on flowers)

*Agrostis vinealis*  
(long ligules and  
narrow leaves)

*Festuca filiformis* (very  
fine leaves, flowers  
virtually awnless)

*Anthoxanthum  
odoratum* (whiskers  
on auricle, almond  
smelling roots)

*Deschampsia flexuosa*  
(needle-like smooth  
leaves, wavy branches)

*Danthonia  
decumbens* (tramline  
on leaf, ligule with  
sticking out nose  
hairs instead of  
auricle)

*Tricophorum germanicum*  
(forms clumps, round  
leaves with minute white  
ridges)

*Nardus stricta* (tough,  
base leaves on right  
angles, infl. black  
whiplike spike)

*Luzula campestris*  
(hairy leaves with  
red knobs on tip,  
fruits single clumps,  
<15cm)

*Luzula multiflora*  
ssp. *congesta*  
(single clumpy  
flowers)

*Luzula multiflora*  
(hairy leaves,  
multiple flower  
heads, 20-40cm)

*Agrostis curtisii*  
(leaves glaucous  
and stiff, long  
sharply pointed  
ligules)