## Calcareous/Chalk Grassland

CG



Extract from 'A Field Guide to Grasses, Sedges and Rushes' © The Species Recovery Trust

Agrostis capillaris	Common Bent
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal Grass
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass
Avenula pratense	Meadow Oat-grass
Avenula pubescens	Downy Oat-grass
Brachypodium sylvaticum	False Brome
Brachypodium pinnatum	Tor-grass
Briza media	Quaking-grass
Bromopsis erecta	Upright Brome
Carex caryophyllea	Spring Sedge
Carex flacca	Glaucous Sedge
Catapodium rigidum	Fern Grass
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's-tail
Festuca ovina	Sheep's Fescue
Festuca rubra	Red Fescue
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog
Koeleria macrantha	Crested Hair-grass
Luzula campestris	Field Wood-rush
Phleum bertolonii	Smaller Cat's-tail
Poa pratensis	Smooth Meadow-grass
Trisetum flavescens	Yellow Oat-grass
CARLO IN TOTAL MANUAL ELECTRICAL INCOME.	

Unimproved calcareous grasslands show the greatest diversity of all the habitat types. Although the dry soils means there is a total absence of Rushes and other damp-loving species, there is a profusion of Oats and Bromes, many of which are well adapted to both drought and grazing.

The general low nutrient levels (of good quality calcareous grassland) mean that a wider range of grasses and sedges co-exist, although where grazing levels are lower, certain species like Upright Brome, False Brome and Tor-grass can become more dominant.

Avenula pubescens Trisetum flavescens Arrhenatherum Brachypodium Brachypodium (downy upper (vellowish feather elatius sylvaticum pinnatum sheath and leaves) duster flower, (yellow drooping (yellowish, stripy (tall with swollen sheaths only hairy at tussocks) heads, tough nodes, bent stem, base) and twisted leaves) tussocks) Avenula pratensis (stiff leaves with Bromopsis erecta tramlines and white (loose tussocks, **Tussock** uppers) stripy heads, **Tussock** of leaves camel's eyelashes) of leaves with Festuca ovina with oaty (wrapped sheath, brome florets needle leaf on florets flower stem, black Koeleria macrantha roots) (silvery florets, sparsely hairy and Festuca rubra rigidly grooved slightly glaucous leaves) (tubular hairy Needle-like sheath, wide leaf on leaves flower stem) **CALCAREOUS** Cynosurus cristatus (One-sided flower. Inflorescences **GRASSLAND** Leaves shiny below, spiked Very hairy Luzula campestre lower ones stick out) (red knobs on leafleaves tips) Anthoxanthum **Broad wavy** odoratum leaves, Briza media (almond scented roots, wavy heads (Dancing panicles, whiskers on auricle) leaves held at 90°) Phleum bertolonii Sedge (flower <6cm with Carex flacca double awned florets) Normal grass-(leaves glaucous like leaves below, black fruits) Tiny and rigid Holcus lanatus (soft leaves, stripes Carex caryophyllea pyjamas bases) (leaves lime green) Tramlines down Leaves spearlike, equal leaf; flowers delicate but with veins; florets clumpy florets very small Catapodium rigidum Poa pratensis (tiny, upright and Agrostis stolonifera Agrostis capillaris (smooth sheath, rigid) (long ligule, stolons) (short ligule) short ligule)