


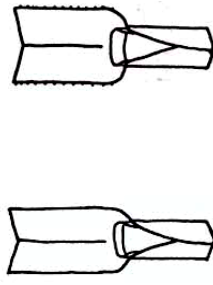


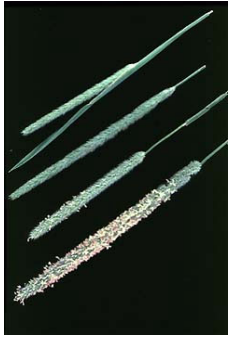











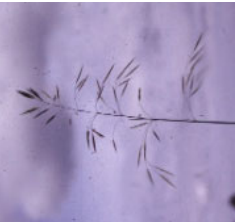








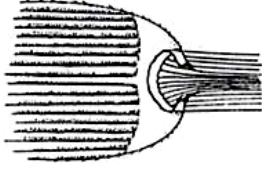





Characteristics of Forage Grasses Found in the Northeast U.S.

Species	Growth Habit	Leaf Characteristics	Seedhead	Other Characteristics
Bluegrass (<i>Poa</i> spp.) Kentucky – <i>P. pratensis</i> Canada – <i>P. compressa</i> A short, low growing grass; A dense, sod forming grass that spreads by short rhizomes	 Many short rhizomes	 Narrow leaves with unique boat shaped tip	 Panicle seedhead with very small seed	 Kentucky Canada
Timothy <i>Phleum pratense</i> A tall growing bunch grass; Very winter hardy;	 Tall, Bunchgrass	 Long ligule, no auricle	 "spike-like" panicle seedhead	 Unique bulb at its roots called a "corm"
Orchardgrass <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> L. Tall growing bunchgrass; Long leaves that are lighter green compared to other grasses; Leaves are strongly folded;	 Prolific tillering grass	 Long, pointed ligule, no auricle	 Panicle seedhead with ball-like clumps	 Leaves are strongly folded
Reed canarygrass <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> L. Very tall growing sod grass with extensive rhizomes; Grows best in wet soils, but tolerates well drained sites	 Sod forming grass	 long ligule with no auricle	 Panicle can be tight but also will open as it matures	 Leaves are wide but leaf blades are short relative to leaf width

Species	Growth Habit	Leaf Characteristics	Seedhead	Other Characteristics
<p>Smooth bromegrass <i>Bromus inermis</i> Leyss. Tall growing, sod forming grass; very tolerant of dry soils;</p>	 <p>Extensive rhizomes</p>	 <p>Short truncate ligule with no auricles; split sheath</p>	 <p>Panicle seedhead with large fluffy seed</p>	 <p>Wide leaf with distinct crimp ("M" marking found on most leaves)</p>
<p>Perennial ryegrass <i>Lolium perenne</i>. A low growing bunchgrass Narrow leaves, shiny on the bottom side</p>		 <p>Leaf collar; ligules are short; claw-like auricles</p>	 <p>Perennial Annual Spike seedhead</p>	 <p>Very shiny bottom side of leaf; also a very pronounced keel</p>
<p>Tall fescue <i>Festuca arundinacea</i> A tall growing bunchgrass; Leaves are coarse and medium-to-wide;</p>		 <p>Short, truncate ligule; Short auricle sometimes with few hairs</p>	 <p>Panicle seedhead</p>	
<p>Quackgrass <i>Agropyron repens</i> (L.) Beauv. A tall growing creeping grass with extensive rhizomes; Leaves are medium-to-wide; Typically considered a weed;</p>		 <p>Long clasping auricles; sheaths are often but not always hairy</p>	 <p>Spike seedhead</p>	