

Poa, BLUEGRASS

Excerpt from Testing Seeds for Purity and Origin by Albina F. Musil (1961)

A SEED KEY

- 1a. Intermediate nerves of lemma distinct to the base; lemma pointed, the apex folded.
 - 2a. Pubescence on mid-nerve and marginal nerves only, the pubescence long and dense; lemma 5–6.5 mm long. Hairs on keels of palea short on upper half, long and dense on lower half. ***Poa arachnifera*, Texas bluegrass** (figure 6).
 - 2b. Pubescence on all nerves; lemma 2.5–3 mm long.
 - 3a. Pubescence long and dense; hairs on keels of palea long, dense, do not extend to tip of palea. ***Poa annua*, annual bluegrass** (figure 5).
 - 3b. Pubescence on nerves shorter, confined to lower half of nerves.
 - 4a. Lemma evenly brownish straw-color, close-fitting on the grain, the intermediate and marginal nerves distinct to the tip; hairs on keels of palea very fine, short, close-spaced, extend to tip of palea. ***Poa trivialis*, rough bluegrass** (figure 3).
 - 4b. Lemma light to dark straw-color, darker brown toward the base, smooth fitting on the grain; hairs on keels of palea coarse, short, wide-spaced, do not extend to tip of palea. ***Poa pratensis*, Kentucky bluegrass** (figure 1).
- 1b. Intermediate nerves of lemma lacking or obscure.
 - 5a. Lemma broad, short-pointed, the apex expanded, light straw-color, loose-fitting on the grain.
 - 6a. Hairs on keels of palea short, fine, close-spaced, or longer about midway, extend to tip of palea; length 2–2.5 mm. ***Poa compressa*, Canada bluegrass** (figure 4).
 - 6b. Hairs on keels of palea short, coarse, wide-spaced, do not extend to tip of palea; length 2.5–3 mm. ***Poa pratensis* var. Merion Kentucky bluegrass** (figure 2).
 - 5b. Lemma pointed, slender, delicate, loose-fitting on grain, light straw-color, often gold-tipped or purplish; rachilla long, slender; hairs on keels of palea short, or longer about midway, close-spaced, extend to tip of palea; length 2–2.5 mm. ***Poa palustris*, fowl bluegrass**.

Source: Musil, Albina F., 1961. Testing Seeds for Purity and Origin. Pages 417-432. In: Stefferud, A. (ed.). Seeds: The Yearbook of Agriculture 1961. United States Department of Agriculture. Washington, D.C.

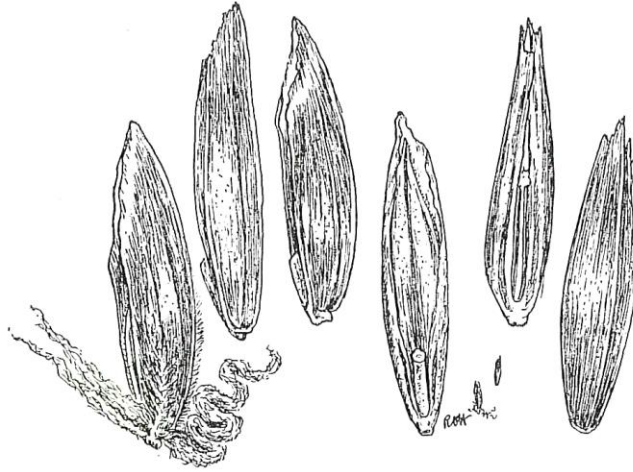


FIGURE 1. *Poa pratensis*.

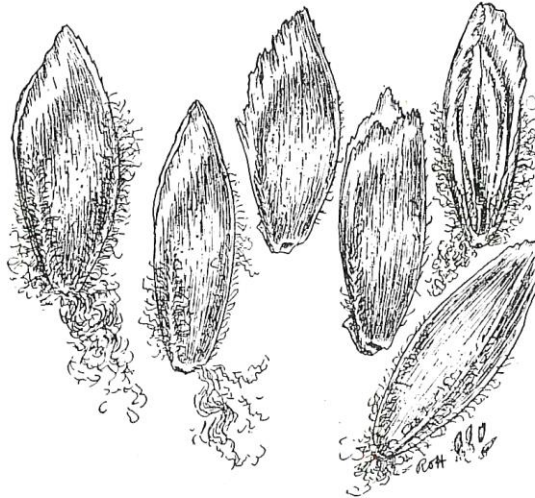


FIGURE 2. *Poa pratensis*, var. *Merion*.

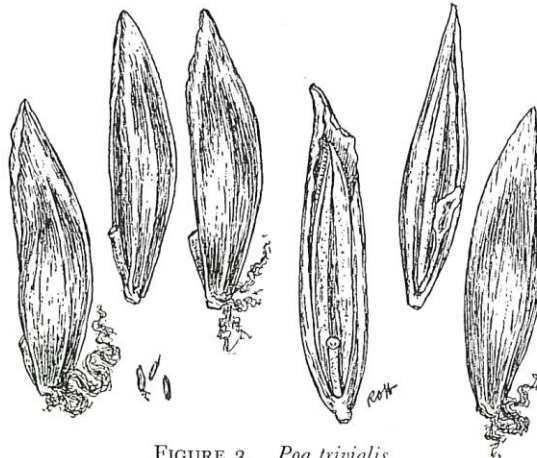


FIGURE 3. *Poa trivialis*.

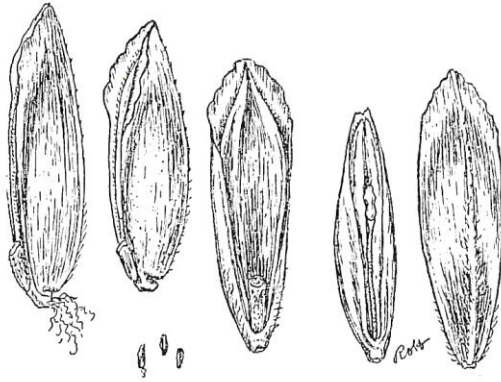


FIGURE 4. *Poa compressa*.



FIGURE 5. *Poa annua*.

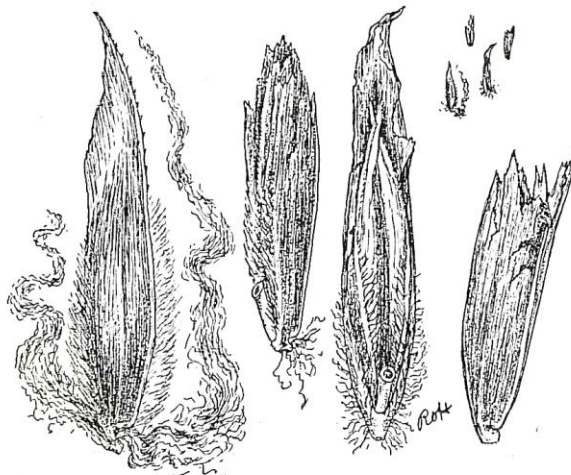


FIGURE 6. *Poa arachnifera*.