

# A guide to the Common Grassland Plants of University Farm

Squire Valleevue and Valley Ridge Farms  
Case Western Reserve University  
Dr. Ana B. Locci, Director

Prepared by Jacob R. G. Kribel, August 2005

# Important notes on this guide

- ❖ This is an introductory guide to the common grassland plant species of University farm.
- ❖ It lists the species most commonly present in research fields 8 and 9, and attempts to provide baseline information that will be useful to anyone wishing to learn more about the grassland plants found here.
- ❖ Note that several members of the Family Poaceae may occur in Field 8, though the species present have not been identified.
- ❖ Make sure you have a good field guide in hand before setting off to discover the grassland plants of the farm!

# *Polytrichum commune*

Field 9

## Haircap Moss

- ❖ Class Bryopsida
  - ❖ Order Polytrichales
    - ❖ Family Polytrichaceae
- ❖ Leaves: lanceolate; to 1 cm long
- ❖ Sporophytes: long, wiry, upright stalk with horizontal capsules
- ❖ Height: to 15 cm tall



USDA NRCS PLANTS Database

# *Juncus tenuis*

Fields 8 & 9

## Path Rush

- ❖ Class Liliopsida
  - ❖ Order Poales
    - ❖ Family Juncaceae
- ❖ Leaves: grasslike; evergreen; sheath around stem; occur in a basal tuft
- ❖ Seed Head: brown; dense corymb at top of stem
- ❖ Height: to 3m



<http://www.ernstseed.com/Catalog/objects/PG%2037-B.jpg>

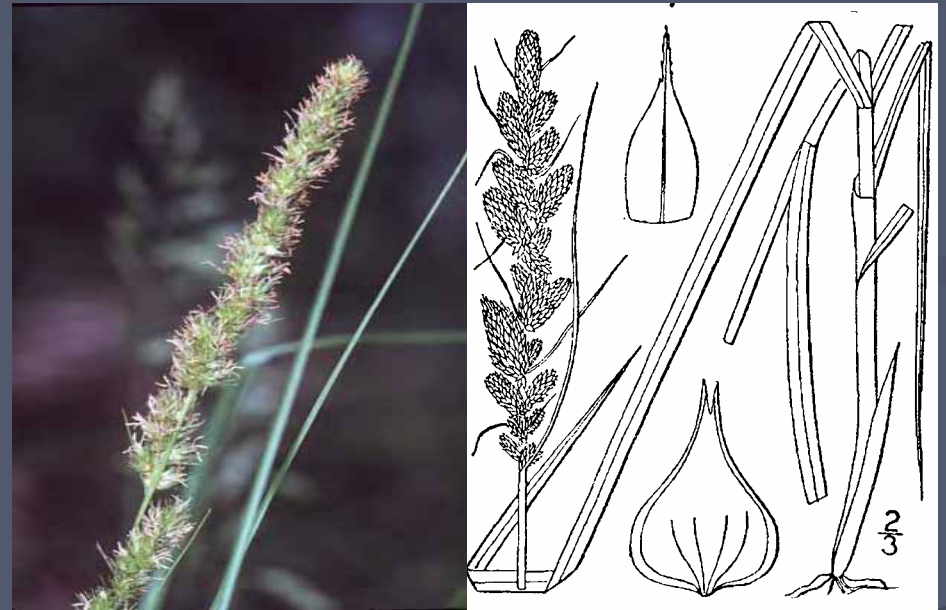
USDA NRCS PLANTS Database

# *Carex vulpinoidea*

## Fox Sedge

Fields 8 & 9

- ❖ Class Liliopsida
  - ❖ Order Poales
    - ❖ Family Cyperaceae
- ❖ Leaves: long; narrow; form a closed sheath around the stem; 3-ranked (come off of stem at 3 different angles)
- ❖ Seed Head: arranged in spikes of alternating clusters
- ❖ Stem: triangular; solid



USDA NRCS PLANTS Database

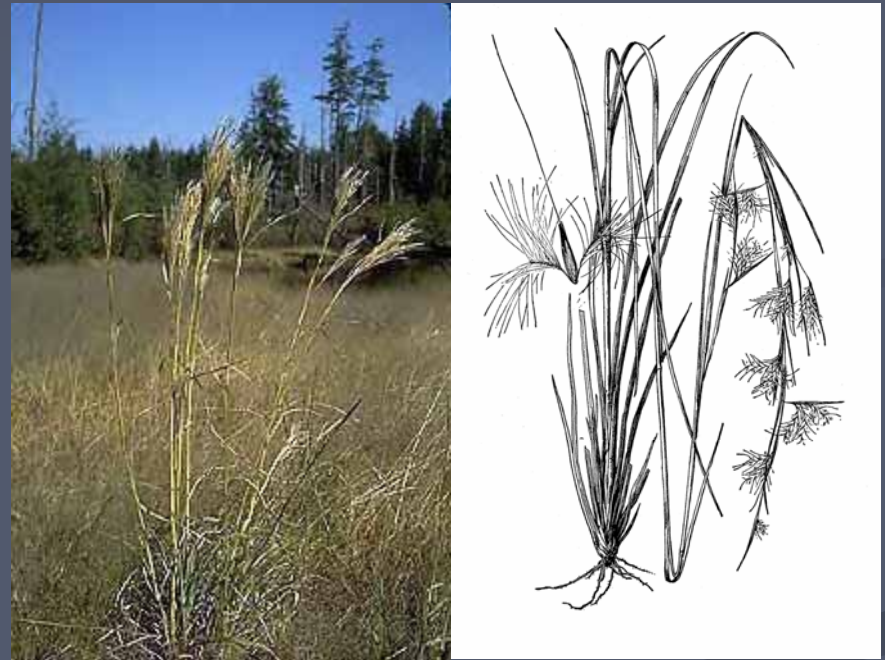


# *Andropogon virginicus*

## Broomsedge bluestem

Field 9

- ❖ Class Liliopsida
  - ❖ Order Poales
    - ❖ Family Poaceae
- ❖ Leaves: long and thin; form an unclosed sheath around the stem; 2-ranked (come off of stem at 2 different angles)
- ❖ Seed Head: 3 projections
- ❖ Stem: blue/purple circular; hollow at internodes



USDA NRCS PLANTS Database

# *Setaria glauca*

## Yellow Foxtail Grass

Field 9

- ❖ Class Liliopsida
  - ❖ Order Poales
    - ❖ Family Poaceae
- ❖ Leaves: long and very thin; form an unclosed sheath around the stem; 2-ranked
- ❖ Seed Head: dense, hairy panicle
- ❖ Stem: circular; hollow at internodes

Introduced



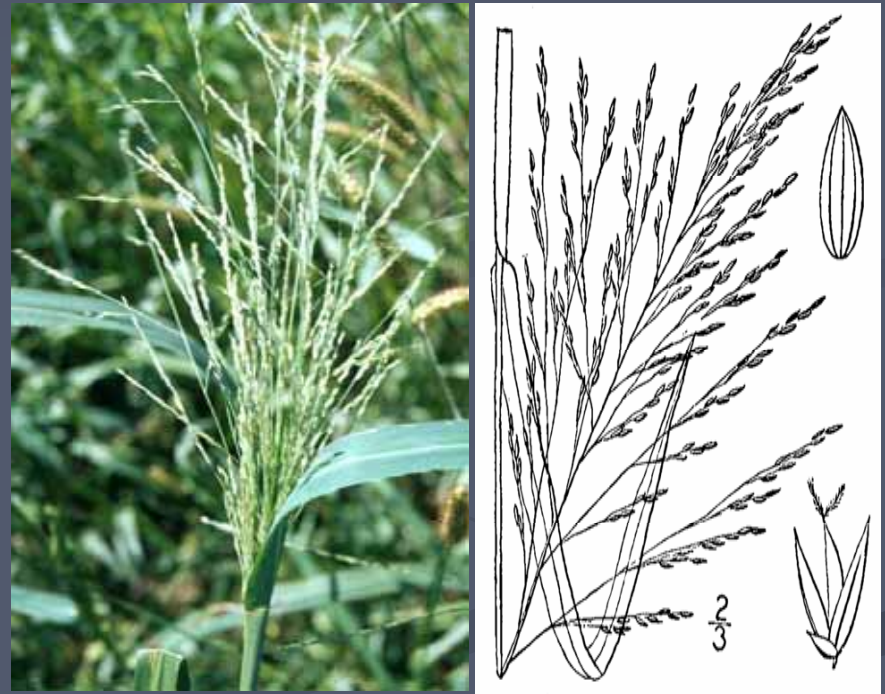
USDA NRCS PLANTS Database

# *Panicum dichotomiflorum*

Field 9

## Fall Panicgrass

- ❖ Class Liliopsida
  - ❖ Order Poales
    - ❖ Family Poaceae
- ❖ Leaves: long and thin; prominent midrib; form an unclosed sheath around the stem; 2-ranked
- ❖ Flowers: broad panicle
- ❖ Stem: circular; hollow at internodes



USDA NRCS PLANTS Database



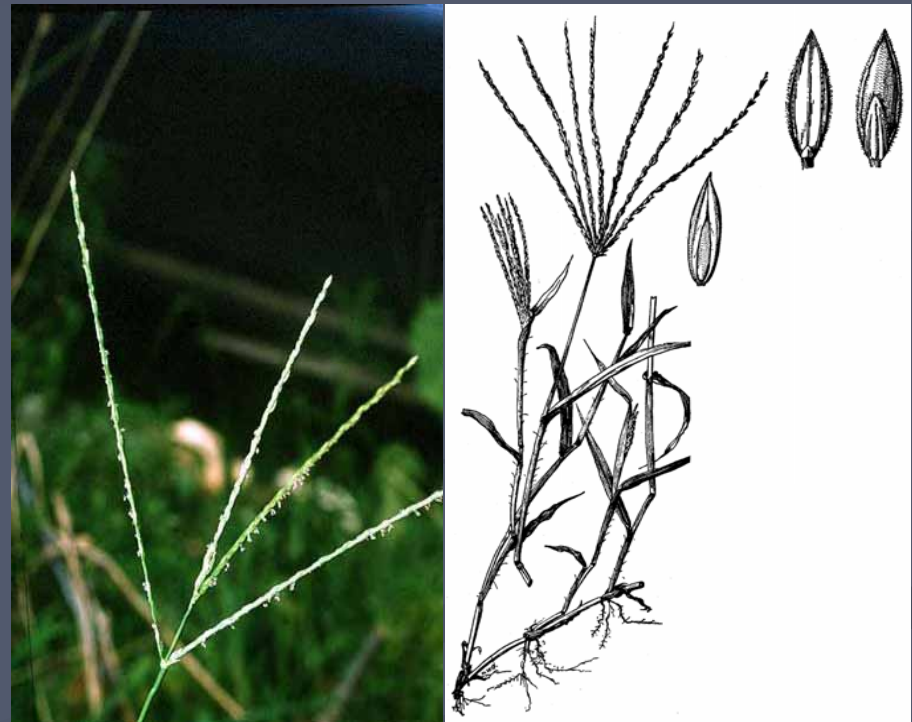
# *Digitaria sanguinalis*

## Common Crabgrass

Field 8

- ❖ Class Liliopsida
  - ❖ Order Poales
    - ❖ Family Poaceae
- ❖ Leaves: long and thin; form an unclosed sheath around the stem; 2-ranked
- ❖ Flowers: long; finger-like
- ❖ Stem: circular; hollow at internodes

Introduced



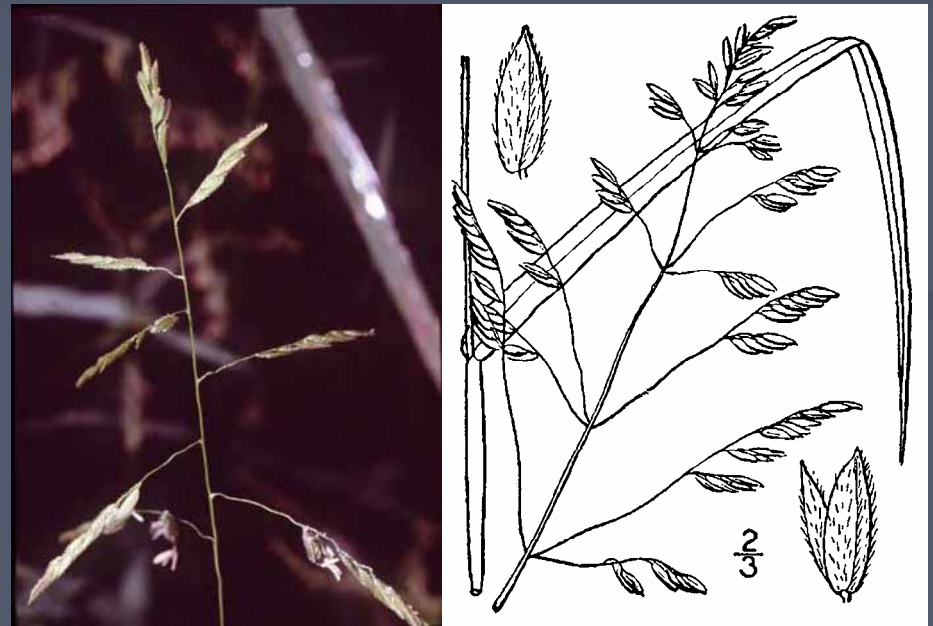
USDA NRCS PLANTS Database

# *Leersia oryzoides*

## Rice Cutgrass

Field 9

- ❖ Class Liliopsida
  - ❖ Order Poales
    - ❖ Family Poaceae
- ❖ Leaves: long and thin; form an unclosed sheath around the stem; 2-ranked; abrasive
- ❖ Flowers: open panicle
- ❖ Stem: circular; hollow at internodes



USDA NRCS PLANTS Database

# *Phleum pratense*

## Common Timothy

Field 9

Introduced

- ❖ Class Liliopsida
  - ❖ Order Poales
    - ❖ Family Poaceae
- ❖ Leaves: long and thin; form an unclosed sheath around the stem; 2-ranked
- ❖ Flowers: tight, solitary, narrow apical spikes
- ❖ Stem: circular; hollow at internodes



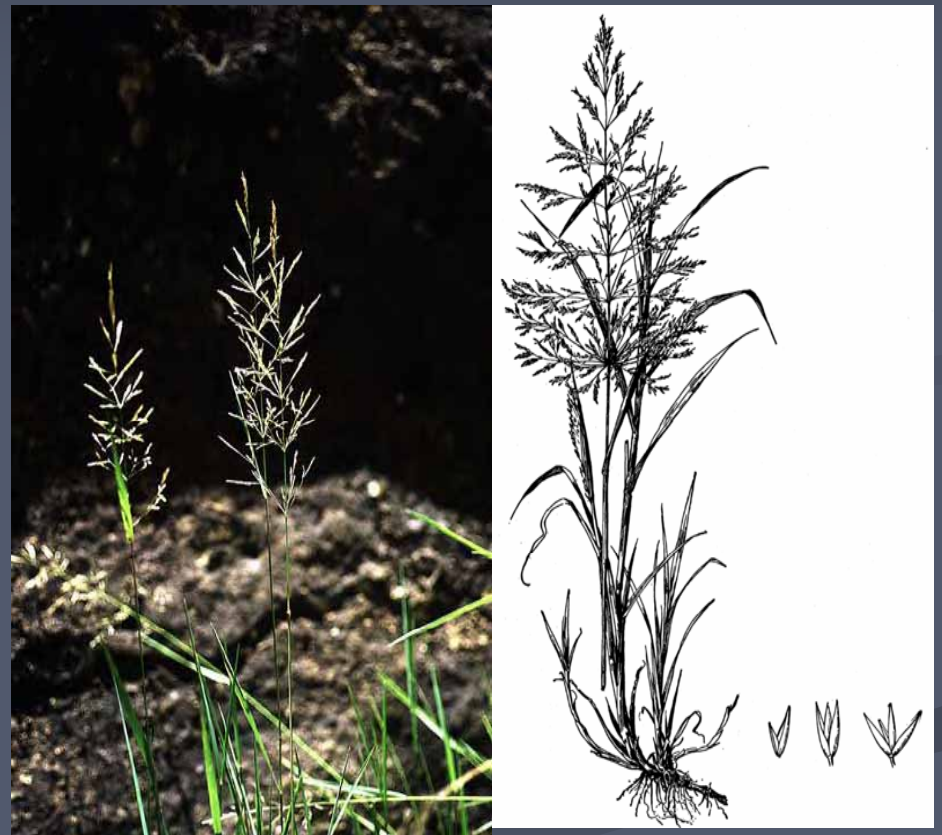
USDA NRCS PLANTS Database

# *Agrostis alba* Redtop Bent

Field 9

- ❖ Class Liliopsida
  - ❖ Order Poales
    - ❖ Family Poaceae
- ❖ Leaves: long and thin; form an unclosed sheath around the stem; 2-ranked; distinct veins
- ❖ Flowers: pyramidal panicle
- ❖ Stem: circular; hollow at internodes

Introduced



USDA NRCS PLANTS Database



# *Holcus lanatus*

## Velvet Grass

Field 9

- ❖ Class Liliopsida
  - ❖ Order Poales
    - ❖ Family Poaceae
- ❖ Leaves: long and thin; form an unclosed sheath around the stem; 2-ranked; have a “soft” appearance
- ❖ Flowers: dense, feathery clusters
- ❖ Stem: circular; hollow at internodes

Introduced



USDA NRCS PLANTS Database

# *Dactylis glomerata*

## Orchardgrass

Field 9

- ❖ Class Liliopsida
  - ❖ Order Poales
    - ❖ Family Poaceae
- ❖ Leaves: long and relatively broad for a grass; form an unclosed sheath around the stem; 2-ranked
- ❖ Flowers: tufted panicle
- ❖ Stem: circular; hollow at internodes

Introduced



USDA NRCS PLANTS Database

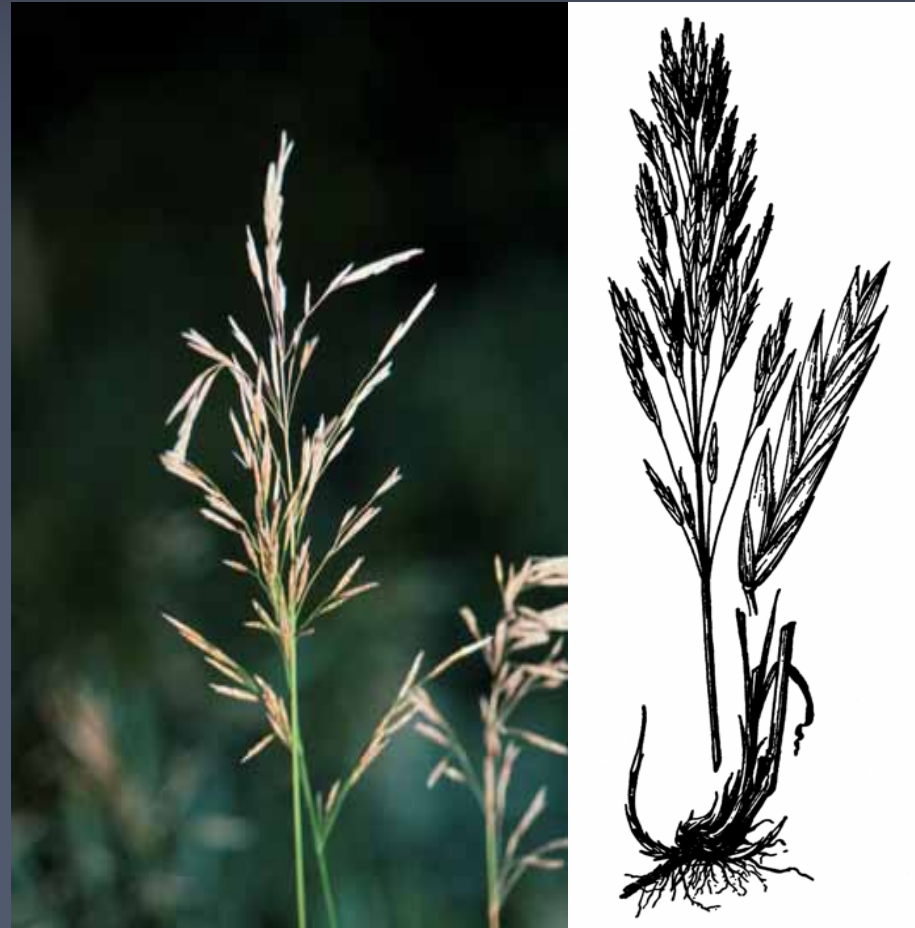
# *Bromus inermis*

Field 9

## Smooth Bromegrass

Introduced

- ❖ Class Liliopsida
  - ❖ Order Poales
    - ❖ Family Poaceae
- ❖ Leaves: long and thin; form an unclosed sheath around the stem; 2-ranked
- ❖ Flowers: loose, nodding panicle
- ❖ Stem: circular; hollow at internodes



USDA NRCS PLANTS Database