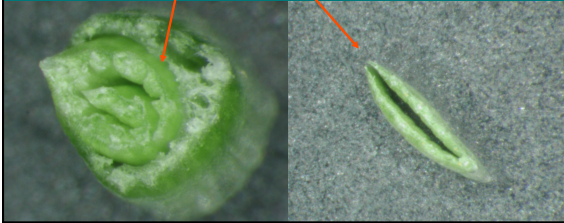


Vegetative Identification of Cool Season Turfgrasses

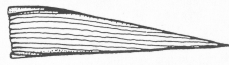

Key Identification Structures

Vernation: As new leaves emerge from the surrounding leaf sheaths, they tend to be either rolled or folded.



Key Identification Structures

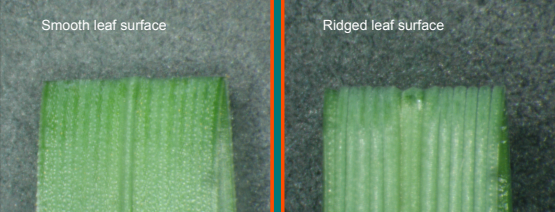
Leaf tips: Leaves tend to be either pointed or boat shaped at the tip. While this can be a useful ID characteristic, leaves often show intermediate forms which can create confusion. Bluegrasses and Orchardgrass have the most distinctly boat shaped leaf tips among cool season turfgrasses.

<p>Pointed leaf tip</p> 	<p>Boat shaped leaf tip</p> 
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Key Identification Structures

Leaf Surface Morphology: The upper leaf surface of cool season grasses is generally, either smooth or distinctly ridged. The ryegrasses and bentgrasses all have ridged upper leaf surfaces. Bluegrasses have smooth upper leaf surfaces.

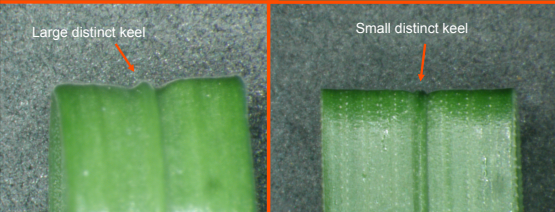
Smooth leaf surface Ridged leaf surface



Key Identification Structures

Leaf Surface Morphology: The lower leaf surface of cool season grasses is generally smooth and with or without a distinct keel running down the center. In the field the underside of the leaf in some grasses is very shiny (ryegrasses and *Poa trivialis*). Other grasses are dull (bentgrasses). Many Grasses tend to look shiny in the greenhouse.


Large distinct keel Small distinct keel



Key Identification Structures

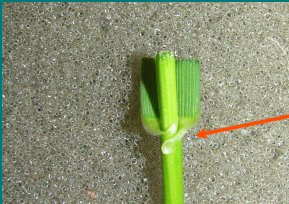
Ligule: At the junction of the leaf blade and sheath is a structure called a ligule. Ligules can be absent, short, or long. Some are truncate and others are pointed. They can also be feathery, membranous, or translucent.

Short truncate Medium membranous Long and feathery



Key Identification Structures

Auricles: Appendages located at the collar near the ligule. They can be absent, rudimentary, pointed, or clasping.



These are clasping auricles

Common Cool Season Turfgrasses:
These include turfgrasses common in lawns

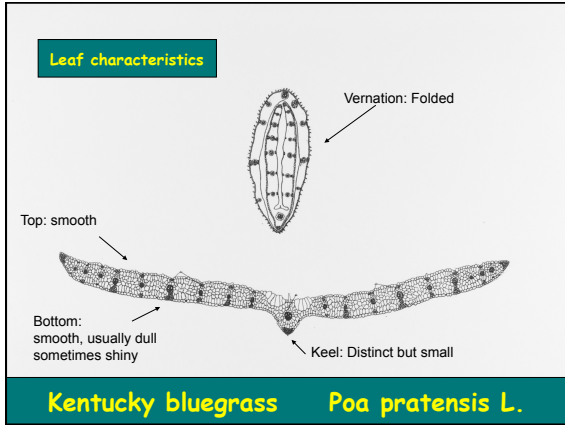
Bluegrasses (*Poa*)
Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*)
Roughstalk bluegrass (*Poa trivialis*)
Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*)

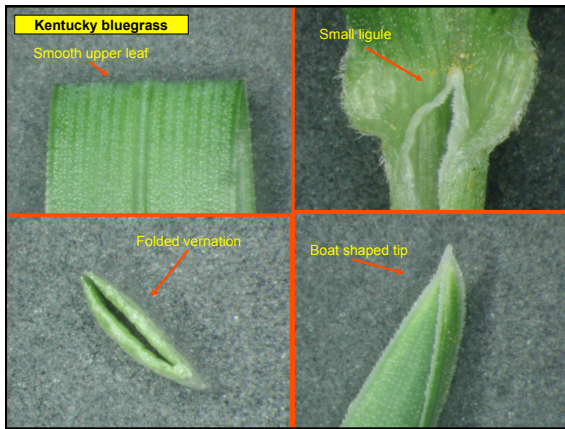
Bentgrasses (*Agrostis*)
Colonial bentgrass (*Agrostis capillaris*)
Dryland bentgrass (*Agrostis castellana*)
Creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*)
Velvet bentgrass (*Agrostis canina*)

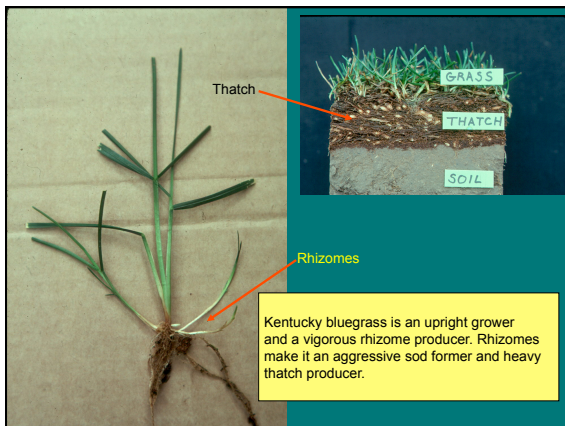
Ryegrasses (*Lolium*)
Perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*)
Annual ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*)
Tall fescue (*Lolium arundinaceum*)

Fine fescues (*Festuca*)
Strong creeping red fescue (*Festuca rubra* ssp. *rubra*)
Slender creeping red fescue (*Festuca rubra* ssp. *litoralis*)
Chewing's fescue (*Festuca rubra* ssp. *commutata*)
Sheep fescue (*Festuca ovina* ssp. *hirtula*)
Hard fescue (*Festuca trachyphylla*)

Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*)

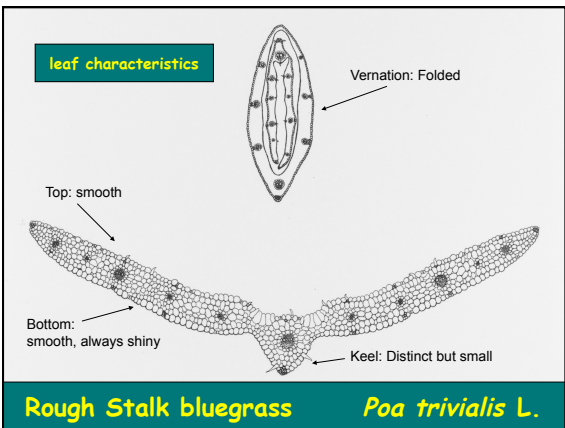




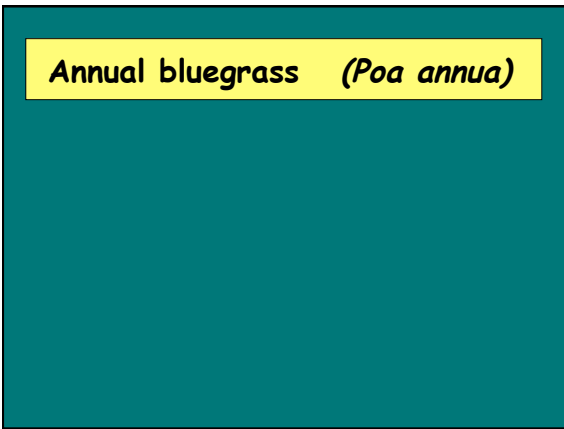


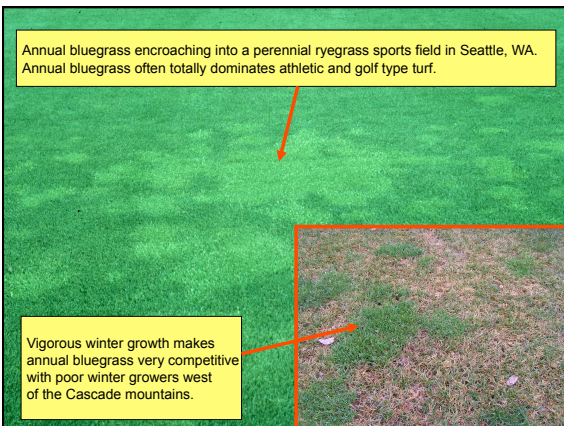
Roughstalk bluegrass (*Poa trivialis*)



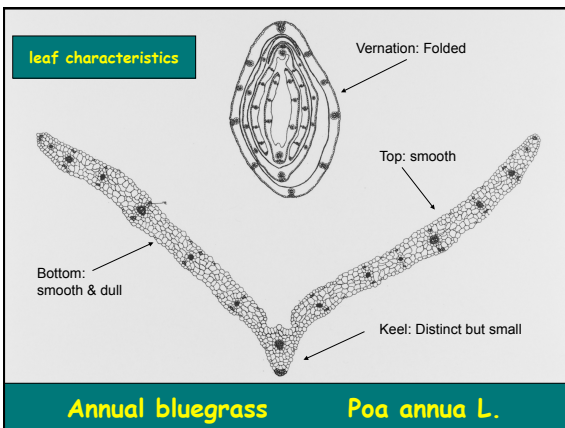


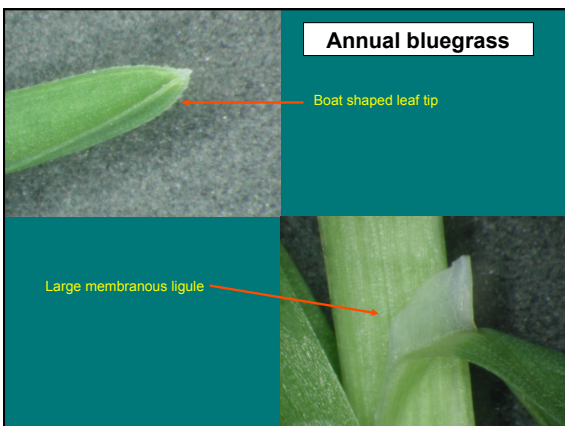




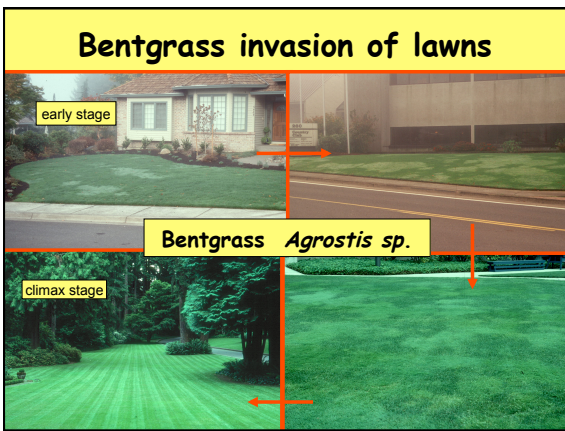


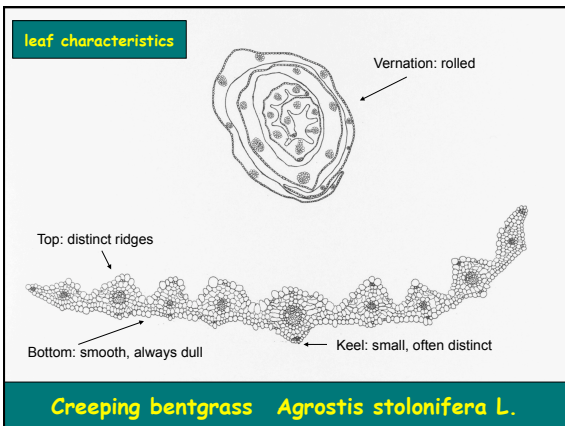


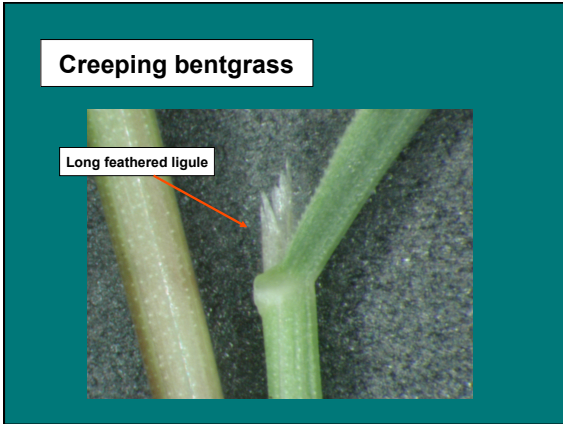


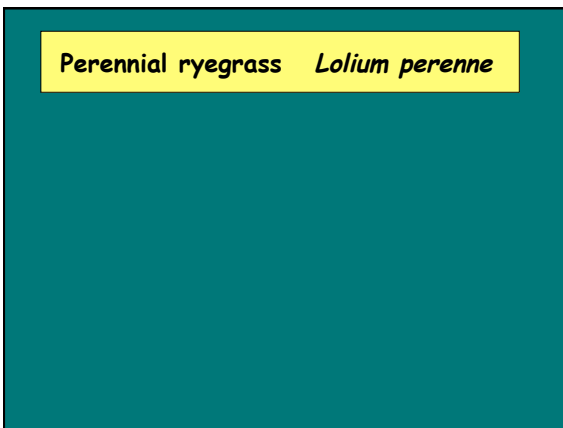


Bentgrasses *Agrostis* sp.

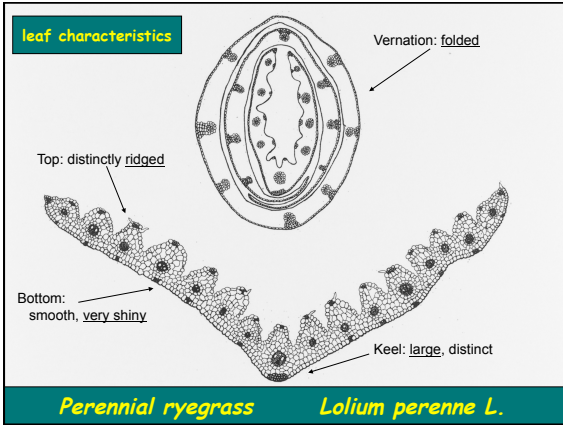


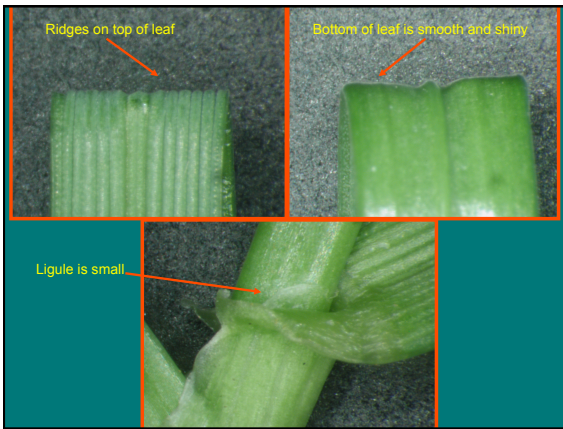


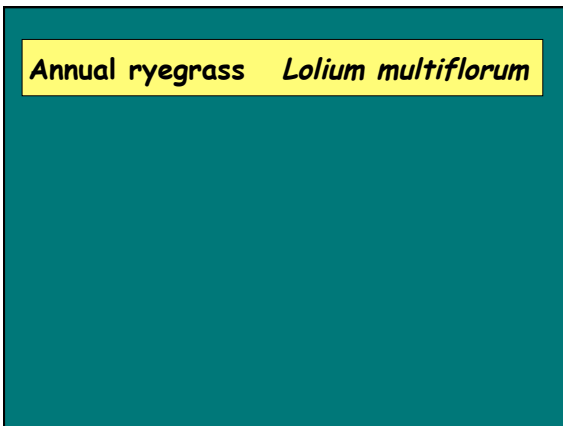




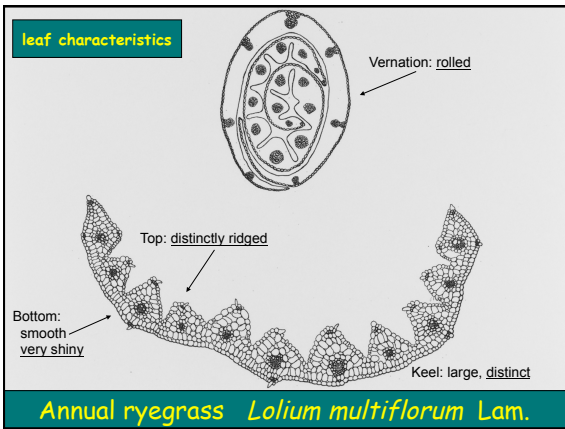


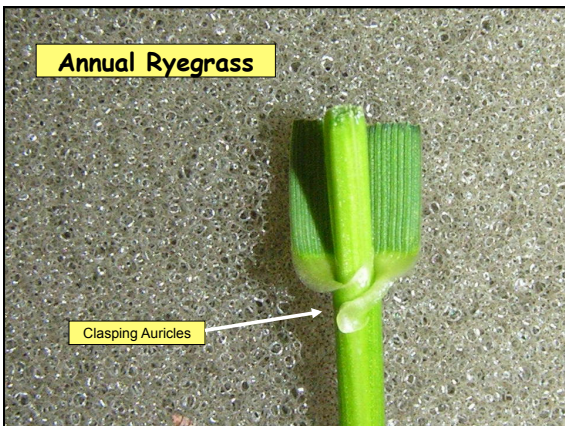


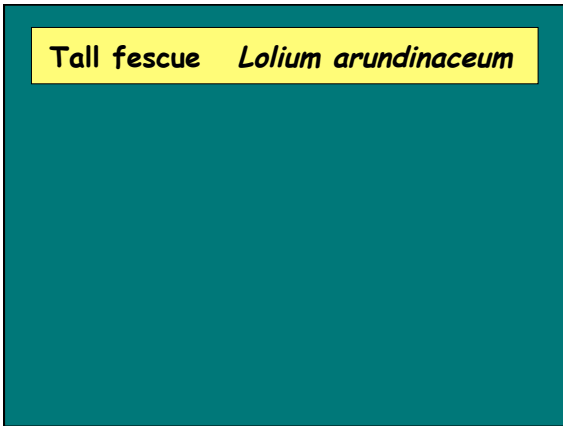




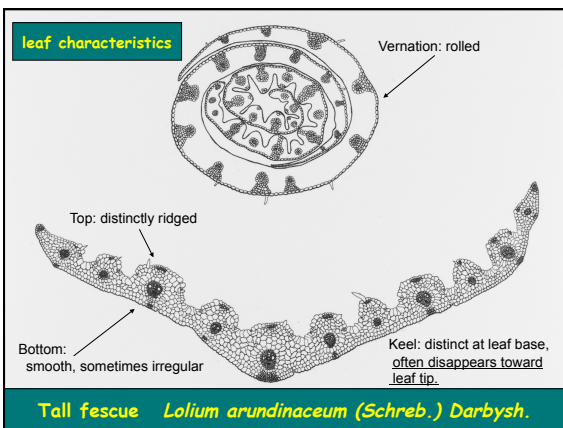


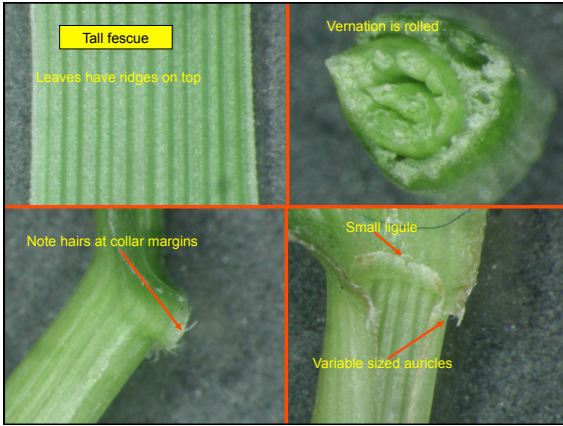






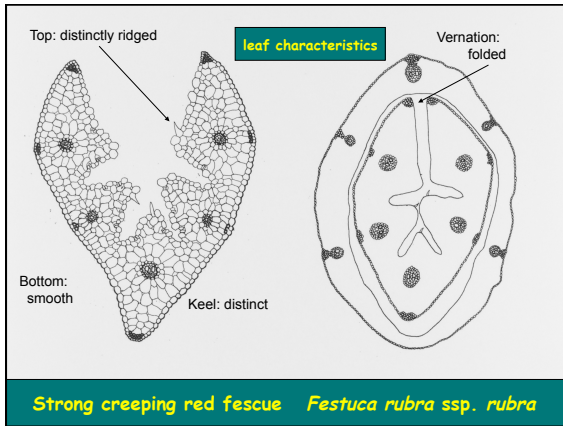














Unplanted cool season grasses often found in lawns:
These grasses may be introduced as contaminants in cheap seed mixes or be present in the soil seed bank at the time of planting.

Roughstalk bluegrass (*Poa trivialis*)*
Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*)*
Dryland bentgrass (*Agrostis castellana*)*
Creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*)*
Tall fescue (*Lolium arundinaceum*)*
Orchardgrass (*Dactylis glomerata*)**
Common velvetgrass (*Holcus lanatus*)**
German velvetgrass (*Holcus mollis*)
Quackgrass (*Elymus repens*)
Rat's-tail fescue (*Vulpia myuros*)**
