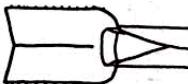
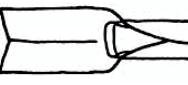
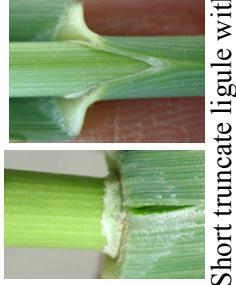
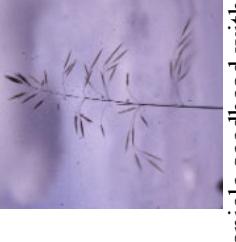
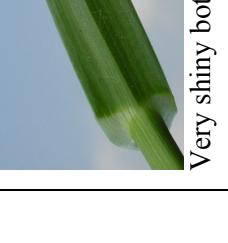
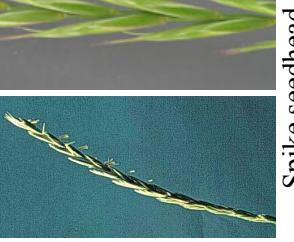
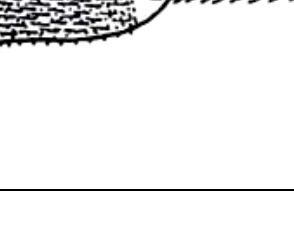


Characteristics of Forage Grasses Found in the Northeast U.S.

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	Narrow leaves with unique boat shaped tip Many short rhizomes	 	  Kentucky Canada
Timothy <i>Phleum pratense</i>	A tall growing bunch grass; Very winter hardy;	 	 	"spike-like" panicle seedhead Unique bulb at its roots called a "corm"
Orchardgrass <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> L.	Tall, Bunchgrass	 	 	Long ligule, no auricle Panicle seedhead with ball-like clumps
		 	 	Long, pointed ligule, no auricle Leaves are strongly folded;
Reed canarygrass <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> L.	Prolific tillering grass	 	 	long ligule with no auricle Panicle can be tight but also will open as it matures
	Sod forming grass	 	 	Leaves are wide but leaf blades are short relative to leaf width

Species	Growth Habit	Leaf Characteristics	Seedhead	Other Characteristics
Smooth bromegrass <i>Bromus inermis</i> Leyss. Tall growing, sod forming grass; very tolerant of dry soils;				
Perennial ryegrass <i>Lolium perenne</i> . A low growing bunchgrass Narrow leaves, shiny on the bottom side			Panicle seedhead with large fluffy seed	 Very shiny bottom side of leaf; also a very pronounced keel
Tall fescue <i>Festuca arundinacea</i> A tall growing bunchgrass; Leaves are coarse and medium-to-wide;			Perennial Annual Spike seedhead	 Short, truncate ligule; Short auricle sometimes with few hairs
Quackgrass <i>Agropyron repens</i> (L.) Beauv. A tall growing creeping grass with extensive rhizomes; Leaves are medium-to-wide; Typically considered a weed;			Panicle seedhead	 Spike seedhead

Developed by Sid Bosworth, Extension Forage Agronomist, University of Vermont, 6/04