

## Redtop

*Agrostis gigantea* Roth (AGGI2)

**Species description:** Redtop is an introduced perennial grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** Rhizomes; grows in moist soil.

**Similar species:** Creeping bentgrass.

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Redtop was found on 18% of the farms sampled and 17% of the pastures. Its average cover was 6.3% where present (range 0.2 - 58%).



Illustration 1: Redtop



## Creeping bentgrass

*Agrostis stolonifera* L. (AGST2)

**Species description:** Creeping bentgrass is a native perennial grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** Creeping rhizome; moist places

**Similar species:** Redtop.

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Creeping bentgrass was found on 16% of the farms sampled and 8% of the pastures. Its average cover was 5.1% where present (range 0.8 - 17.2%).



Illustration 2: Creeping bentgrass



## Meadow foxtail

*Alopecurus pratensis* L. (ALPR3)

**Species description:** Meadow foxtail is an introduced perennial grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** rough leaves, soft 2" panicle

**Similar species:** other Foxtails

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Meadow foxtail was found on 2% of the farms sampled and 2% of the pastures. Its average cover was 0% where present (range 0 - 0%).



Illustration 3: Meadow foxtail





## Broomsedge

*Andropogon virginicus* L. (ANVI2)

**Species description:** Broomsedge is a native perennial grass.

It is not usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:**

**Similar species:**

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Broomsedge was found on 9% of the farms sampled and 5% of the pastures. Its average cover was 5.1% where present (range 0.1 - 19.2%).



Illustration 4: Broomsedge



## Sweet vernalgrass

*Anthoxanthum odoratum* L. (ANOD)

**Species description:** Sweet vernalgrass is an introduced perennial grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** Pleasant sweet smell.

**Similar species:** velvetgrass

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Sweet vernalgrass was found on 20% of the farms sampled and 18% of the pastures. Its average cover was 3.8% where present (range 0.1 - 22.5%).



Illustration 5: Sweet vernalgrass





## Common oat

*Avena sativa* L. (AVSA)

**Species description:** Common oat is an introduced annual grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** straight awns or none at all

**Similar species:** wild oat; barley; wheat; rye

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Common oat was found on 9% of the farms sampled and 3% of the pastures. Its average cover was 30.4% where present (range 1.8 - 59%).

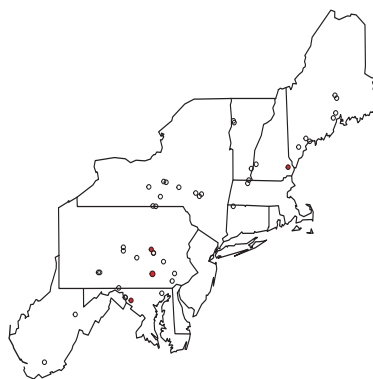


Illustration 6: Common oat



## Matua or prairie brome

*Bromus catharticus* Vahl (BRCA6)

**Species description:** Matua brome is an introduced annual or perennial grass. It is usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** Membranous ligule; no auricle.

**Similar species:** Other bromes.

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Matua brome; prairie brome was found on 11% of the farms sampled and 9% of the pastures. Its average cover was 1.4% where present (range 0.1 - 8.1%).



Illustration 7: Matua brome



## Meadow brome

*Bromus commutatus* Schrad. (BRR2)

**Species description:** Meadow brome is an introduced annual grass. It is usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** Rhizomatous bunchgrass.

**Similar species:** Other bromes.

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Meadow brome was found on 7% of the farms sampled and 2% of the pastures. Its average cover was 5.8% where present (range 0.2 - 11.5%).



Illustration 8: Meadow brome





## Smooth brome

*Bromus inermis* Leyss. (BRIN2)

**Species description:** Smooth brome is an introduced perennial grass. It is usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** Smooth or hairy on leaf sheath; smooth on leaf blade. M-shaped fold on leaf. Tall and robust grass.

**Similar species:** Timothy; Downy brome.

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Smooth brome was found on 32% of the farms sampled and 25% of the pastures. Its average cover was 3% where present (range 0.1 - 15.5%).



Illustration 9: Smooth brome





## Downy brome

*Bromus tectorum* L. (BRTE)

**Species description:** Downy brome is an introduced annual grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

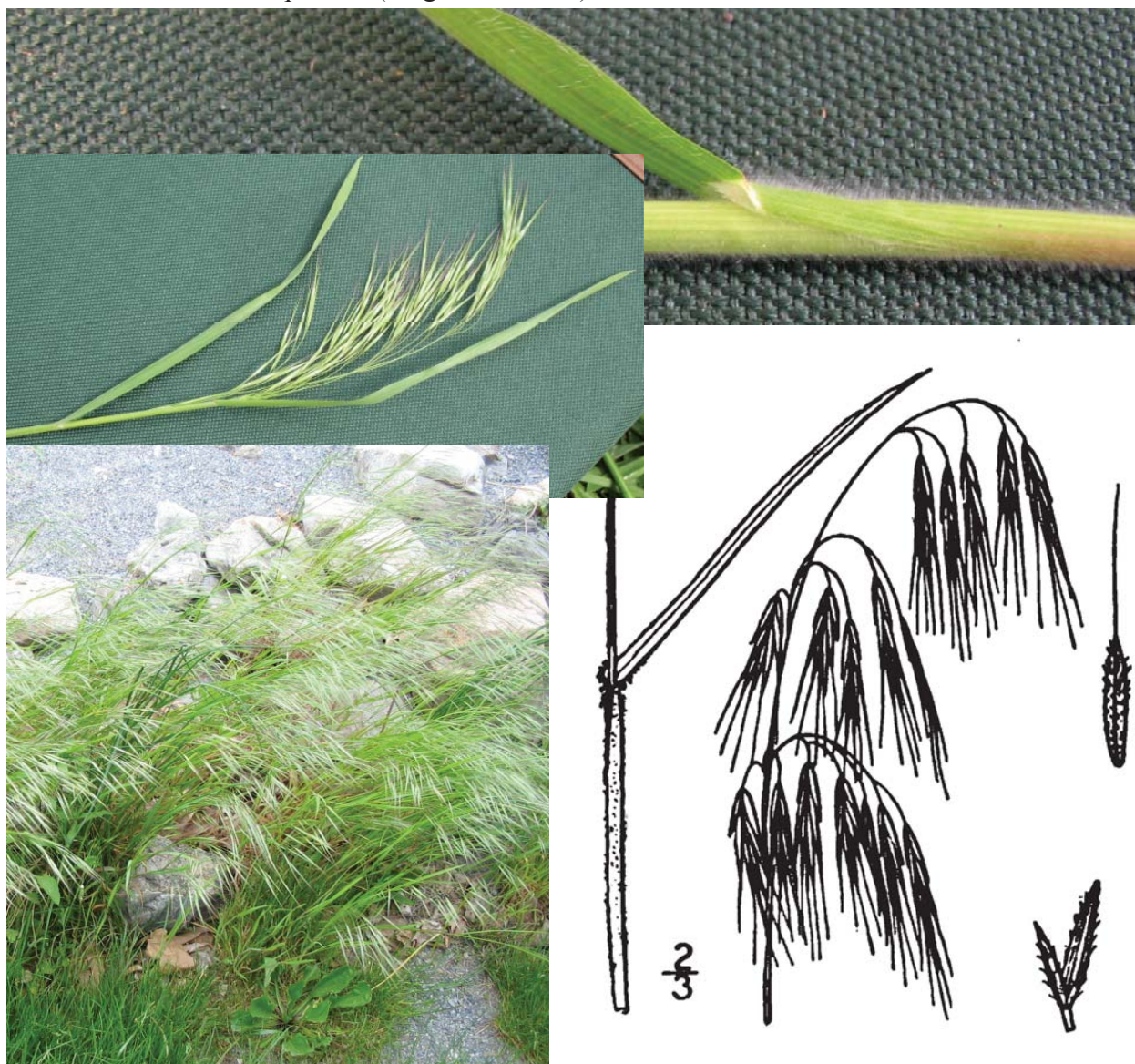
**Identifying characteristics:** Soft grass; lack auricles, membranous ligule that unlike velvetgrass is smooth on back; very hairy leaves and stem.

**Similar species:** velvetgrass; smooth brome

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Downy brome was found on 18% of the farms sampled and 11% of the pastures. Its average cover was 0.5% where present (range 0.1 - 1.8%).



Illustration 10: Downy brome



## Bluejoint grass

*Calamagrostis canadensis* (Michx.) Beauv.(CACA4)

**Species description:** Bluejoint grass is a native perennial grass. Much of the wild hay for northern prairie states. It is not usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** 4-8 mm wide leaves, 15 cm long panicle, grows to 1.25 meters in height.

**Similar species:**

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Bluejoint grass was found on 5% of the farms sampled and 4% of the pastures. Its average cover was 1.5% where present (range 0.3 - 3.4%).



Illustration 11: Bluejoint grass





## Bermuda grass

*Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers. (CYDA)

**Species description:** Bermuda grass is an introduced perennial grass. It is not usually described as a forage species in the northeastern United States.

**Identifying characteristics:** spreading rhizomes and stolons; white ring of hairs in collar region; margins slightly rough.



**Similar species:** Crabgrass and Nimblewill

Illustration 12: Bermuda grass

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Bermuda grass was found on 7% of the farms sampled and 4% of the pastures. Its average cover was 5.1% where present (range 2.8 - 7%).



## Yellow nutsedge

*Cyperus esculentus* L. (CYES)

**Species description:** Yellow nutsedge is an introduced perennial sedge. It is not usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** Yellow-green narrow blades; Triangular stem.

**Similar species:** Purple nutsedge

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Yellow nutsedge was found on 14% of the farms sampled and 8% of the pastures. Its average cover was 1.4% where present (range 0.2 - 4.1%).



Illustration 13: Yellow nutsedge





## Orchardgrass

*Dactylis glomerata* L. (DAGL)

**Species description:** Orchardgrass is an introduced perennial grass. It is usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** Flat stem; bluish-green leaves; prominent ligule; no auricles.

**Similar species:** Goosegrass

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Orchardgrass was found on 98% of the farms sampled and 89% of the pastures. Its average cover was 14.4% where present (range 0.1 - 77%).



Illustration 14: Orchardgrass





## Povertygrass

*Danthonia spicata* (L.) Beauv. ex Roemer amp J.A. Schultes (DASP2)

**Species description:** Povertygrass is a native perennial grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** curly basal leaves; 2 to 5 cm long panicle, with few flowers.



**Similar species:** Oatgrass

Illustration 15: Povertygrass

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Povertygrass was found on 11% of the farms sampled and 5% of the pastures. Its average cover was 1% where present (range 0.1 - 2.6%).



## Deertongue grass

*Dichanthelium clandestinum* (L.) Gould (DICL)

**Species description:** Deertongue grass is a native perennial grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

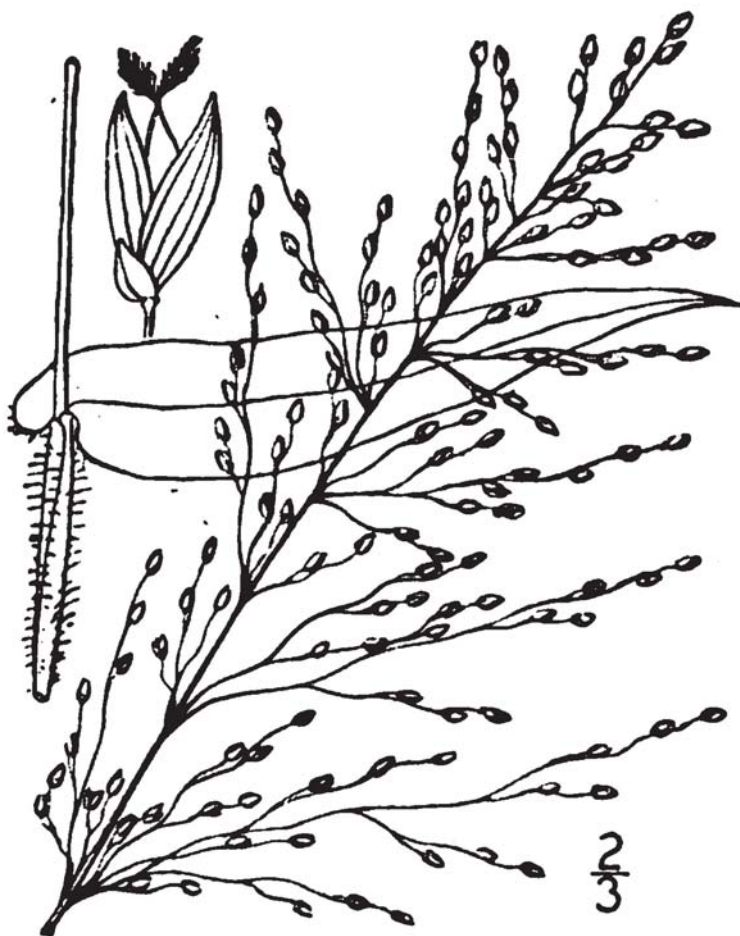
**Identifying characteristics:** Broad hairy leaves.

**Similar species:** Witchgrass.

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Deertongue grass was found on 9% of the farms sampled and 5% of the pastures. Its average cover was 0.2% where present (range 0.1 - 0.3%).



Illustration 16: Deertongue grass



## Smooth crabgrass

*Digitaria ischaemum* (Schreb.) Schreb. ex Muhl.  
(DIIS)

**Species description:** Smooth crabgrass is an introduced annual grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** Smooth leaves.

**Similar species:** Large crabgrass.

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Smooth crabgrass was found on 25% of the farms sampled and 18% of the pastures. Its average cover was 8.8% where present (range 0.1 - 71.3%).



Illustration 17: Smooth crabgrass





## Large or northern crabgrass

*Digitaria sanguinalis* (L.) Scop. (DISA)

**Species description:** Large crabgrass is a native annual grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** lack auricles; membranous ligule; broad collar with long hairs at margin; Hairy leaves and sheaths.

**Similar species:** Smooth crabgrass.

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Large crabgrass; northern crabgrass was found on 45% of the farms sampled and 39% of the pastures. Its average cover was 4.8% where present (range 0.1 - 65%).



Illustration 18: Large crabgrass





## Barnyardgrass

*Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.) Beauv. (ECCR)

**Species description:** Barnyardgrass is an introduced annual grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** Very robust; white midrib on leaves; lack auricles and ligule; distinctive flower head.

**Similar species:** Johnsongrass and fall panicum

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Barnyardgrass was found on 52% of the farms sampled and 38% of the pastures. Its average cover was 1.9% where present (range 0.1 - 17.6%).



## Spikerush

*Eleocharis* sp. R. Br. (ELEOC)

**Species description:** Spikerush is a native perennial sedge. It is not usually described as a forage species.

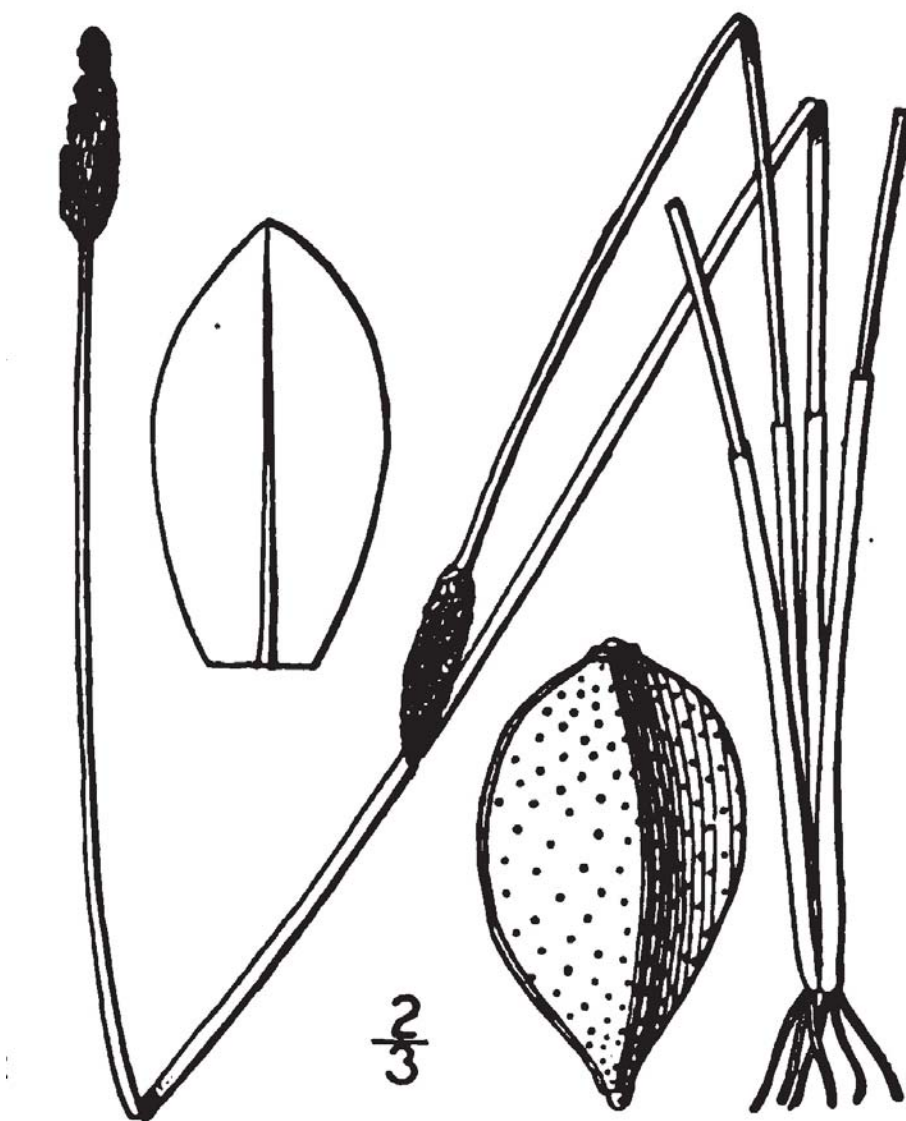
**Identifying characteristics:** Moist places.

**Similar species:** Slender rush.

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Spikerush was found on 5% of the farms sampled and 2% of the pastures. Its average cover was 0.5% where present (range 0.5 - 0.5%).



Illustration 20: Spikerush





## Goosegrass

*Eleusine indica* (L.) Gaertn. (ELIN3)

**Species description:** Goosegrass is an introduced annual grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

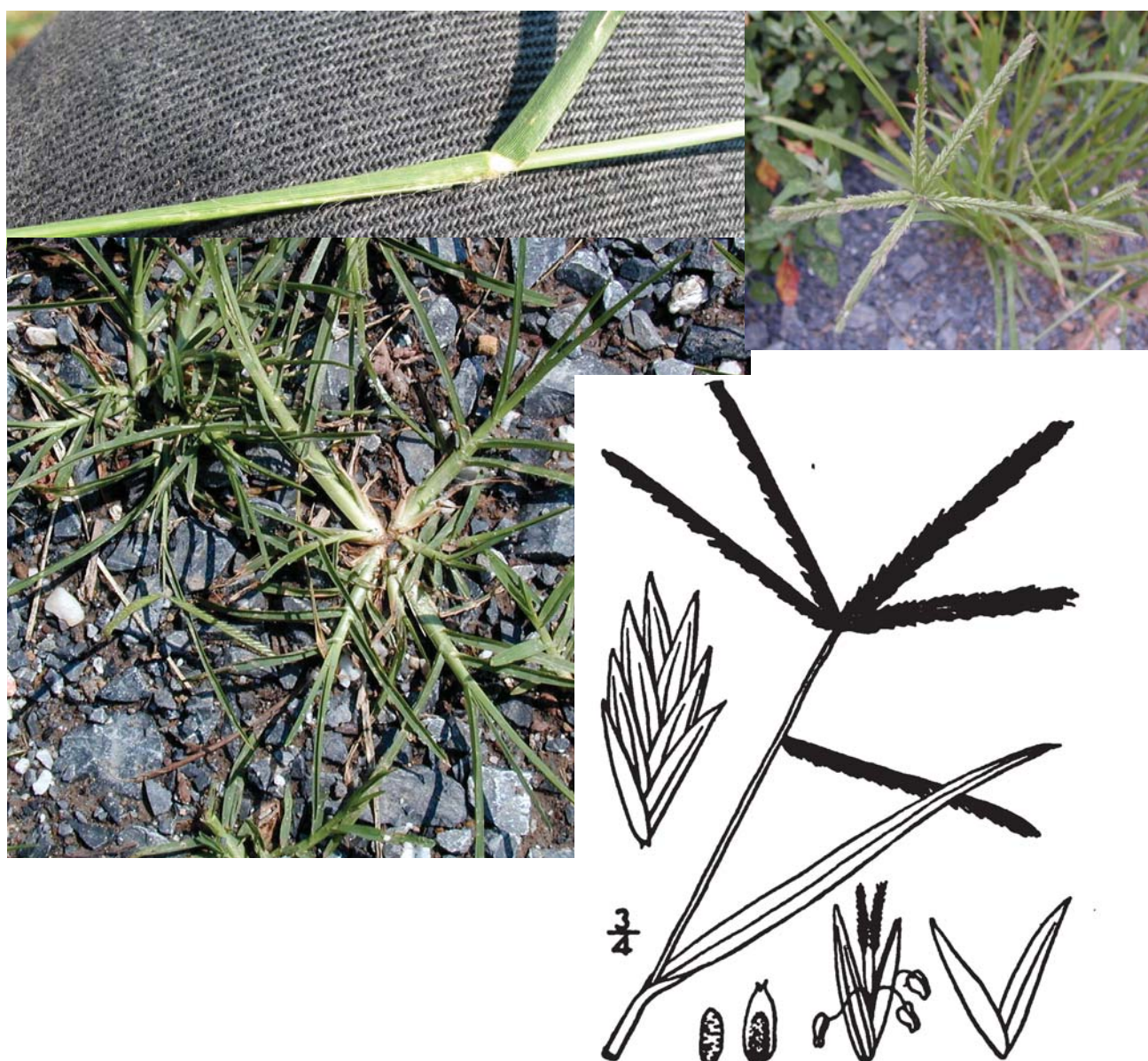
**Identifying characteristics:** folded along midvein; lack auricles; membranous unevenly toothed ligule ( $\leq 1$  mm); collar is broad; and white at base.

**Similar species:** crabgrass and Orchardgrass

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Goosegrass was found on 16% of the farms sampled and 11% of the pastures. Its average cover was 4.4% where present (range 0.1 - 24%).



Illustration 21: Goosegrass



## Quackgrass

*Elymus repens* (L.) Gould (ELRE4)

**Species description:** Quackgrass is an introduced perennial grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

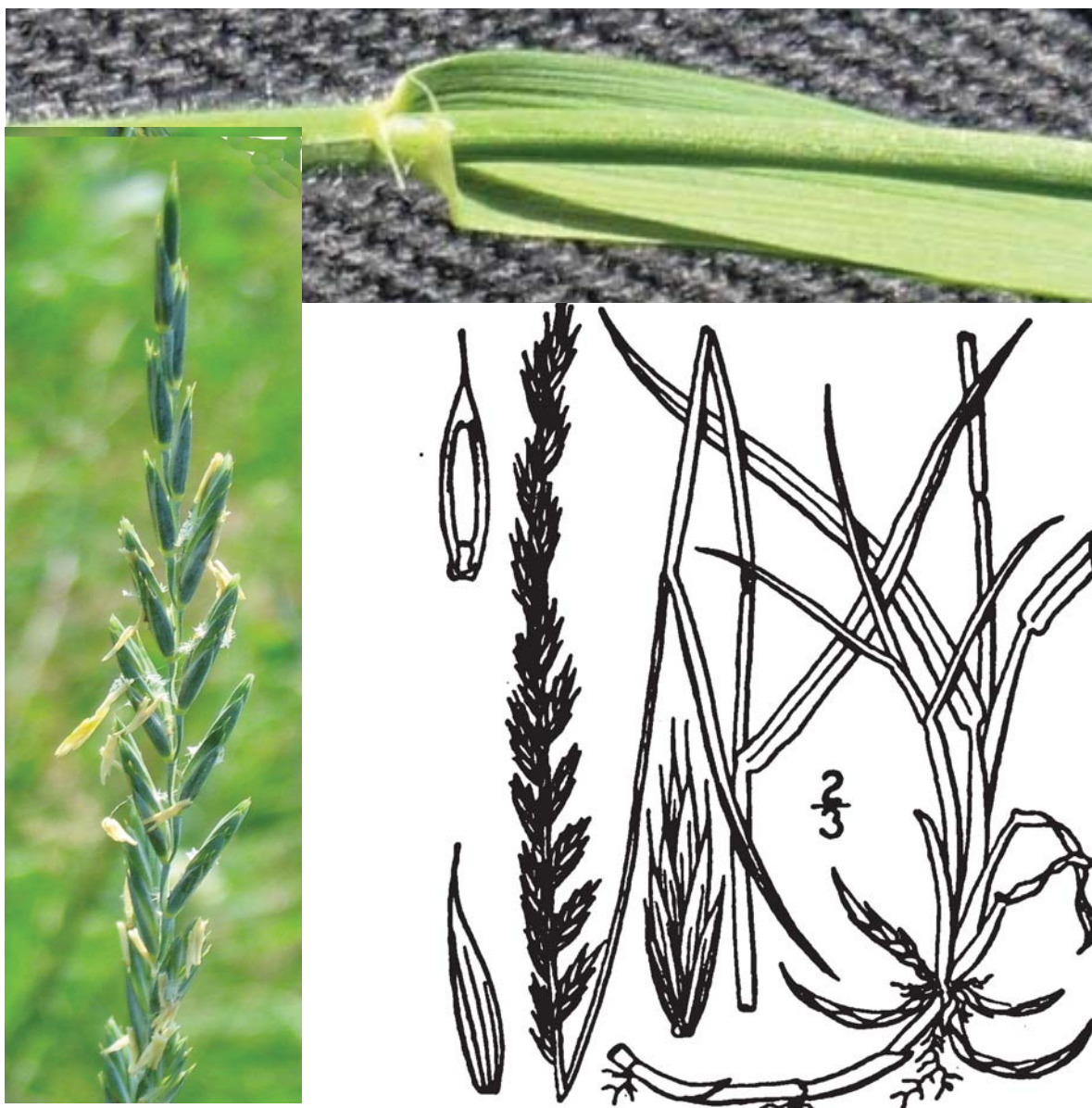
**Identifying characteristics:** leaves rolled; ligule is short and membranous; auricles are narrow and clasp the stem; leaves hairy to smooth upper and smooth lower surface.

**Similar species:** Tall fescue and ryegrasses

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Quackgrass was found on 89% of the farms sampled and 79% of the pastures. Its average cover was 4.7% where present (range 0.1 - 61%).



Illustration 22: Quackgrass





## Red fescue

*Festuca rubra* L. (FERU2)

**Species description:** Red fescue is a native perennial grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** Narrow, somewhat stiff leaves. Creeping rootstocks bent at reddish base.

**Similar species:** fine fescue and agrostis species

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Red fescue was found on 7% of the farms sampled and 5% of the pastures. Its average cover was 15.5% where present (range 0.8 - 34.7%).



Illustration 23: Red fescue



## Velvetgrass

*Holcus lanatus* L. (HOLA)

**Species description:** Velvetgrass is an introduced perennial grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

**Identifying characteristics:** lack auricles; membranous ligule; hairy on back surface of ligule; dense soft hairs on both sides of leaves and velvety hairy sheaths.

**Similar species:** downy brome

**Abundance in the Northeast:** Velvetgrass was found on 16% of the farms sampled and 11% of the pastures. Its average cover was 1.4% where present (range 0.1 - 5%).



Illustration 24: Velvetgrass

