

Common barley

Hordeum vulgare L. (HOVU)

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

Identifying characteristics: long crooked awns; esrlets in three

Similar species: wild oat; barley; wheat

Abundance in the Northeast: Common barley was found on 2% of the farms sampled and 1% of the pastures. Its average cover was 0.2% where present (range 0.2 - 0.2%).

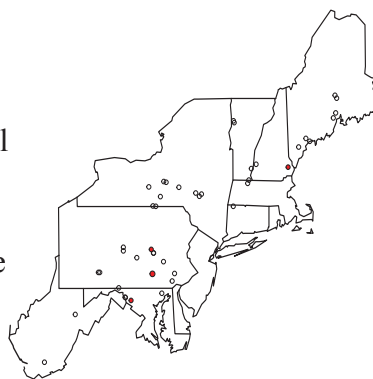


Illustration 25: Common barley



Common rush

Juncus effusus L. (JUEF)

Species description: Common rush is a native perennial rush. It is not usually described as a forage species.

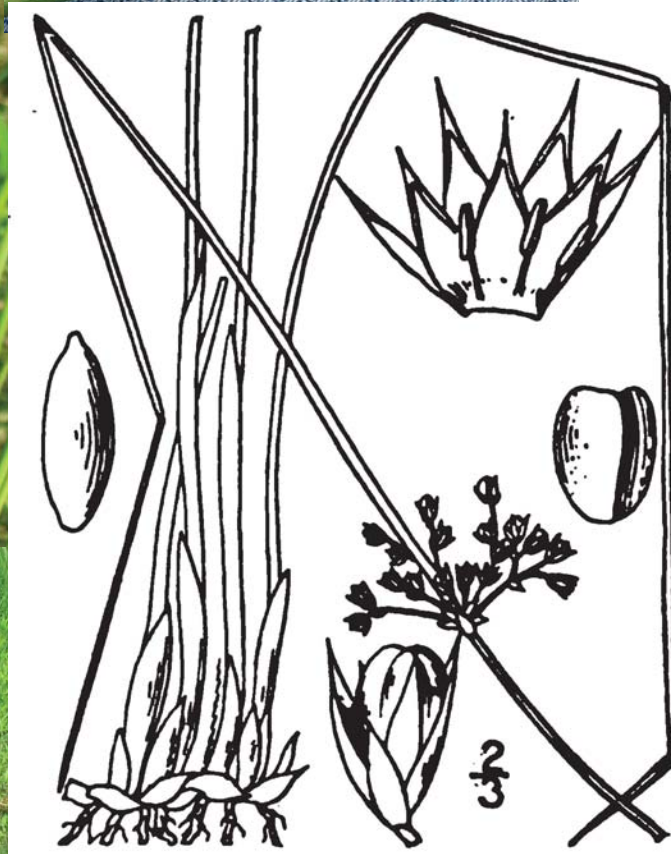
Identifying characteristics: Round pithy stem.

Similar species: Slender rush.

Abundance in the Northeast: Common rush was found on 9% of the farms sampled and 5% of the pastures. Its average cover was 0.6% where present (range 0.1 - 1.9%).



Illustration 26: Common rush



Slender rush

Juncus tenuis Willd. (JUTE)

Species description: Slender rush is a native perennial rush. It is not usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: Round solid stem, smaller than soft rush.

Similar species: Soft rush.

Abundance in the Northeast: Slender rush was found on 48% of the farms sampled and 26% of the pastures. Its average cover was 0.7% where present (range 0.1 - 4.2%).



Illustration 27: Slender rush



Tall fescue

Lolium arundinaceum (Schreb.) S.J. Darbyshire (LOAR10)

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

Identifying characteristics: Round stem; parallel veins on a flat thick leaf; dull above, glossy below; short auricle with fringe of hair; short membranous ligule.

Similar species: Perennial ryegrass.

Abundance in the Northeast: Tall fescue was found on 89% of the farms sampled and 84% of the pastures. Its average cover was 17.3% where present (range 0.1 - 89.9%).

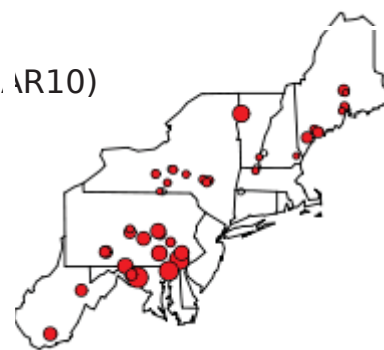
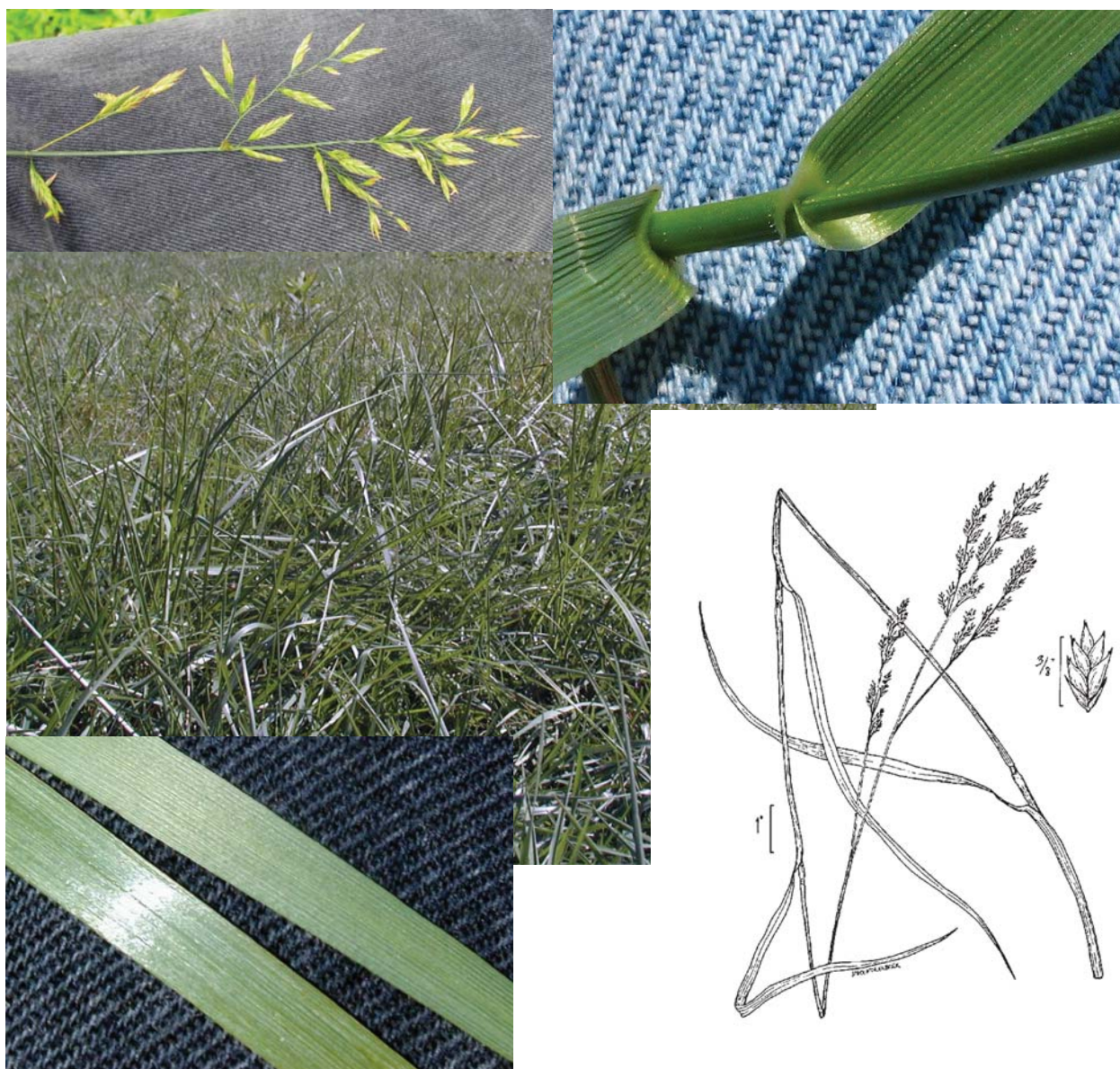


Illustration 28 : Tall fescue



Perennial ryegrass

Lolium perenne L. (LOPE)

Species description: Perennial ryegrass is an introduced annual, biennial or perennial grass. It is usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: Flattened stem; small clasp ing auricle; keeled leaf; very shiny; awns are often absent.

Similar species: Tall fescue; annual ryegrass, quackgrass

Abundance in the Northeast: Perennial ryegrass was found on 64% of the farms sampled and 57% of the pastures. Its average cover was 10% where present (range 0.1 - 72%).



Illustration 29: Perennial ryegrass



Annual ryegrass

Lolium perenne L. ssp. *multi lorum* (Lam.) Husnot (.OPEM2)

Species description: Annual, Italian or Marshall ryegrass is an introduced annual grass. It is usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: Robust clump forming; long claw-like auricles; membranous ligule; leaves rough above and shiny below; spikelets contain one glume and have long awns.

Similar species: Perennial ryegrass, quackgrass.

Abundance in the Northeast: Annual ryegrass was found on 5% of the farms sampled and 2% of the pastures. Its average cover was 6.9% where present (range 4.9 - 9.7%).

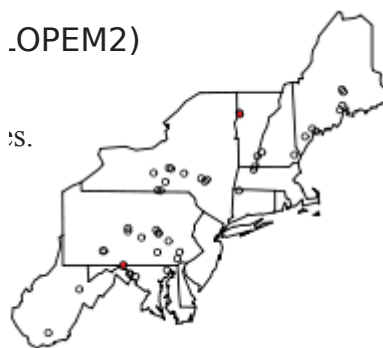


Illustration 30: Annual ryegrass



Meadow fescue

Lolium pratense (Huds.) S.J. Darbyshire (LOPR7)

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

Identifying characteristics:

Similar species:

Abundance in the Northeast: Meadow fescue was found on 9% of the farms sampled and 5% of the pastures. Its average cover was 2.7% where present (range 0.6 - 4.8%).



Illustration 31 : Meadow fescue



Wirestem muhley

Muhlenbergia mexicana (L.) Trin. (MUME2)

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

Identifying characteristics: Rolled leaves; auricles absent, membranous jagged ligule; stems stiff and wiry; blades short, flat and lack hairs; thick scaly rhizomes.

Similar species: nimblewill

Abundance in the Northeast: Wirestem muhley was found on 7% of the farms sampled and 2% of the pastures. Its average cover was 2.2% where present (range 0.3 - 4.1%).



Illustration 32: Wirestem muhley



Nimblewill

Muhlenbergia schreberi J.F. Gmel. (MUSC)

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

Identifying characteristics: Stolons; rolled leaves; auricles absent; very short membranous ligule; sheaths are smooth.

Similar species: Creeping bentgrass; wirestem muhly

Abundance in the Northeast: Nimblewill was found on 16% of the farms sampled and 7% of the pastures. Its average cover was 0.5% where present (range 0.5 - 0.5%).



Illustration 33: Nimblewill



Witchgrass

Panicum capillare L. (PACA6)

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

Identifying characteristics: Leaves rolled, lack auricles; ligule is a fringe of hairs; leaves hairy on both surfaces; margins rough; sheaths hairy and purplish .

Similar species: Deertongue grass; Fall panicum.

Abundance in the Northeast: Witchgrass was found on 5% of the farms sampled and 2% of the pastures. Its average cover was 0.6% where present (range 0.5 - 0.7%).



Illustration 34: Witchgrass



Fall panicum

Panicum dichotomi lorum Michx. (PADI)

Species description: Fall panicum is a native annual grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: Robust; leaves rolled; lack auricles; Fringed ligule; stem appears waxy; swollen nodes give zigzag appearance; blades smooth glossy below.

Similar species: Witchgrass; foxtails; Johnsongrass

Abundance in the Northeast: Fall panicum was found on 18% of the farms sampled and 9% of the pastures. Its average cover was 1.1% where present (range 0.1 - 3%).



Illustration 35: Fall panicum



Reed canarygrass

Phalaris arundinacea L. (PHAR3)

Species description: Reed canarygrass is a native perennial grass. It is usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: Auricles absent; long rounded ligule; blades flat and smooth; sheath round and smooth; robust.

Similar species: other reeds

Abundance in the Northeast: Reed canarygrass was found on 45% of the farms sampled and 25% of the pastures. Its average cover was 9.7% where present (range 0.1 - 61%).



Illustration 36: Reed canarygrass



Timothy

Phleum pratense L. (PHPR3)

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

Identifying characteristics: Swollen stem base (corm); lack auricles; membranous ligule; spiralling leaf arrangement.

Similar species: Smooth brome.

Abundance in the Northeast: Timothy was found on 98% of the farms sampled and 83% of the pastures. Its average cover was 6.2% where present (range 0.1 - 42%).



Illustration 37: Timothy



Annual bluegrass

Poa annua L. (POAN)

Species description: Annual bluegrass is an introduced annual or biennial grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: lack auricles; pointy membrabous ligule; leaves are keeled with boat-shaped tip; hairless sheath; tufted, light green, spreads by tillers, not rhizomatous.

Similar species: canada bluegrass; kentucky bluegrass

Abundance in the Northeast: Annual bluegrass was found on 18% of the farms sampled and 7% of the pastures. Its average cover was 1.8% where present (range 0.3 - 7.4%).



Illustration 38: Annual bluegrass



Canada bluegrass

Poa compressa L. (POCO)

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

Identifying characteristics: rhizomatous; dark green; panicle with short branches in pairs; also boat-shaped tip.

Similar species: annual bluegrass, kentucky bluegrass

Abundance in the Northeast: Canada bluegrass was found on 2% of the farms sampled and 3% of the pastures. Its average cover was 1.4% where present (range 0.8 - 1.7%).



Illustration 39: Canada bluegrass



Kentucky bluegrass

Poa pratensis L. (POPR)

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

Identifying characteristics: lack auricles; membranous ligule; folded leaf; “ski-track” veins; boat-shaped leaf tip; rhizomatous, blue green color; panicle with longer branches.

Similar species: Orchardgrass; perennial ryegrass.

Abundance in the Northeast: Kentucky bluegrass was found on 100% of the farms sampled and 96% of the pastures. Its average cover was 20.9% where present (range 0.1 - 73.5%).



Illustration 40: Bluegrass;
Kentucky bluegrass



Rough bluegrass

Poa trivialis L. (POTR2)

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

Identifying characteristics: lack auricles; long membranous ligule; leaf margins rough; boat-shaped tip; sheaths are rough; open pyramidal panicle; rhizomatous.

Similar species: other bluegrass; creeping bentgrass

Abundance in the Northeast: Rough bluegrass was found on 9% of the farms sampled and 5% of the pastures. Its average cover was 2.7% where present (range 0.1 - 6.1%).



Illustration 41: Rough bluegrass



Bulrush; woolgrass

Scirpus cyperinus (L.) Kunth (SCCY)

Species description: Bulrush; woolgrass is a native perennial grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: very wooly; wet ground; 4ft tall; stem slightly triangular.

Similar species: other rushes

Abundance in the Northeast: Bulrush; woolgrass was found on 7% of the farms sampled and 6% of the pastures. Its average cover was 0.7% where present (range 0.1 -1.9%).

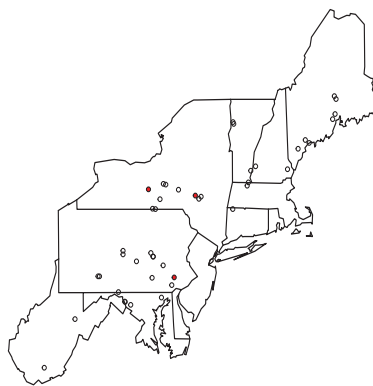


Illustration 42: Bulrush



Cereal rye

Secale cereale L. (SECE)

Species description: Cereal rye is an introduced annual or biennial grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: rolled; flat leaves less erect than other grains; small to medium auricles; sheaths usually hairy.

Similar species: wild oat; barley; wheat

Abundance in the Northeast: Cereal rye was found on 2% of the farms sampled and 1% of the pastures. Its average cover was 0.2% where present (range 0.2 - 0.2%).

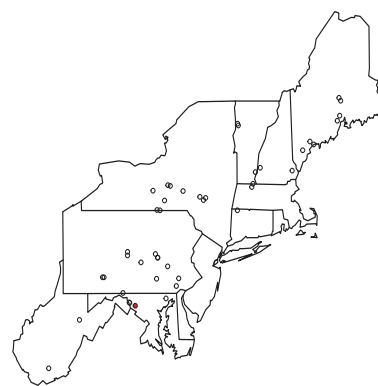


Illustration 43: Cereal rye



Giant foxtail

Setaria faberi Herrm. (SEFA)

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

Identifying characteristics: Sheath has split; hairy margins; ligule of hairs; leaf blade with short hairs; nodding flowerhead.

Similar species: Other foxtails.

Abundance in the Northeast: Giant foxtail was found on 16% of the farms sampled and 13% of the pastures. Its average cover was 0.9% where present (range 0.1 - 2.4%).



Illustration 44: Giant foxtail



Yellow foxtail

Setaria pumila (Poir.) Roem. & Schult. ssp. *pumila* (SEPUP2)

Species description: Yellow foxtail is an introduced annual or perennial grass. It is not usually described as a forage species.

Identifying characteristics: lack auricles; ligule fringe of hair; sheath not hairy; leaf with long hairs near base; seedhead bristles yellow.

Similar species: Other foxtails.

Abundance in the Northeast: Yellow foxtail was found on 32% of the farms sampled and 31% of the pastures. Its average cover was 2.6% where present (range 0.1 - 29.3%).



Illustration 45: Yellow foxtail



Green foxtail

Setaria viridis (L.) Beauv. (SEVI4)

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

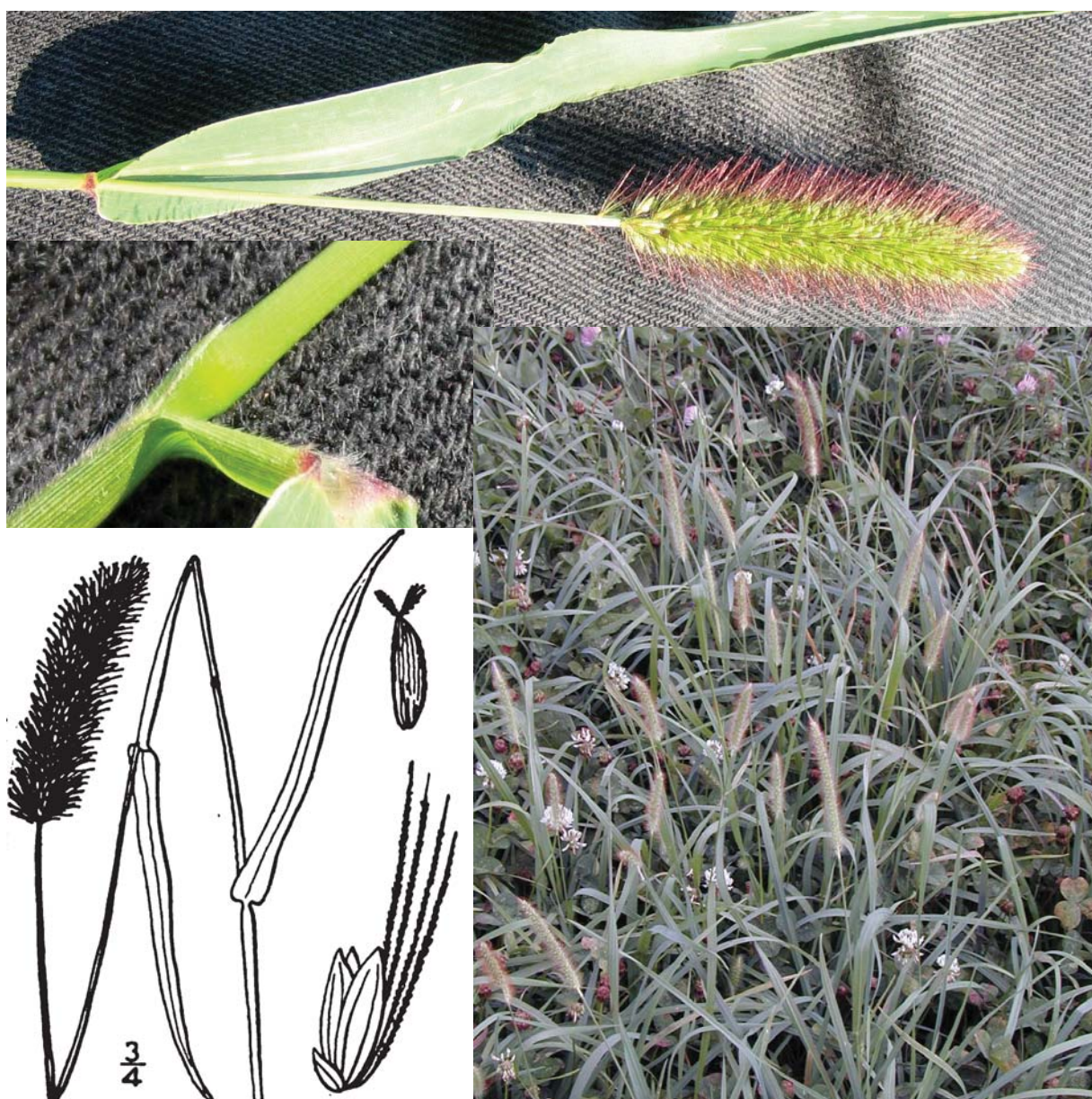
Identifying characteristics: Sheath hairy; leaf blade rough on top but not hairy; seedhead bristles green or purplish.

Similar species: Other foxtails.

Abundance in the Northeast: Green foxtail was found on 7% of the farms sampled and 3% of the pastures. Its average cover was 2% where present (range 0.1 - 5.6%).



Illustration 46: Green foxtail



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Johnsongrass

Sorghum halepense (L.) Pers. (SOHA)

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

Identifying characteristics: lack auricles; membranous ligule; blades are flat and smooth with prominent white midvein.

Similar species: Shattercane; fall panicum

Abundance in the Northeast: Johnsongrass was found on 16% of the farms sampled and 10% of the pastures. Its average cover was 3.2% where present (range 0.1 - 14.6%).



Illustration 47: Johnsongrass



Purpletop

Tridens flavus (L.) A.S. Hitchc. (TRFL2)

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

Identifying characteristics: clumpy; 1-2 m tall; smooth blades 3 to 10 mm wide; open panicle purplish to almost black.

Similar species: redtop; rough bluegrass

Abundance in the Northeast: Purpletop was found on 9% of the farms sampled and 5% of the pastures. Its average cover was 1.1% where present (range 0.2 - 2%).



Illustration 48 : Purpletop

