



Poaceae – Grass Family

- Stem usually cylindrical and hollow
- Stem leaves alternate in 2 ranks with sheathing lower part
- Leaf blades entire with parallel veins
- Ligule usually present at the top of the sheath
- Sheath sometime has wing like extensions called auricles
- Flowers much reduced into florets
- Floret consists of a lemma, palea, ovary and usually 3 stamen (in bisexual florets)
- Spikelet consists of 1-many florets
- Spikelet usually has 2 outer glumes
- Ovary superior
- The ovary is one celled with one ovule

Example species

Dactylis glomerata – Cock’s Foot

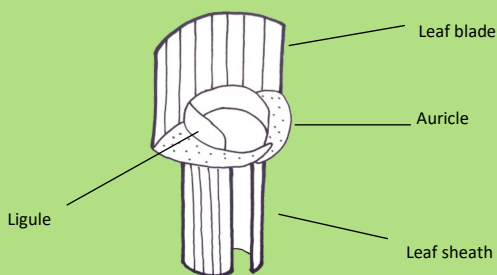
The inflorescence is a one-sided panicle with dense clusters of spikelets.

Spikelets with two unequal glumes, 2-5 florets and keeled lemmas with a short awn.

The leaf sheaths are sharply keeled with overlapping margins.



Base of leaf blade



Spikelet

Inside the spikelet are one to many florets usually surrounded by 2 glumes. The lemma protects the ovary and stamen before maturity.

