

Key to Genera

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| 1. Leaves spirally arranged, less than 2 cm long; rare | <i>Micraira</i> |
| Leaves not spirally arranged, usually more than 2 cm long | 2 |
| 2. Spikelets with 2 florets, lower male or neuter, upper female or bisexual; rarely with lower floret absent, in which case single lemma is adjacent to upper glume | 3 |
| Spikelets with one to many florets; if with 2, then lower floret always female or bisexual | 77 |
| 3. Spikelets disarticulating at maturity above persistent glumes | 4 |
| Spikelets disarticulating at maturity below glumes | 5 |
| 4. Lower lemma with a kneed awn from back | <i>Arrhenatherum</i> |
| Lower lemma awnless, upper lemma awned from tip | <i>Arundinella</i> |
| 5. Female spikelet enclosed in toughened, bead-like capsule | <i>Coix</i> |
| Female spikelet not enclosed in bead-like capsule | 6 |
| 6. Inflorescence racemose, with paired male spikelets in apical portion, clearly different from unpaired female spikelets in basal portion | <i>Chionachne</i> |
| Inflorescence, if racemose, not with clearly different male terminal and female basal spikelets | 7 |
| 7. Spikelets usually in pairs or triplets with one usually sessile and other(s) pedicellate; pedicellate spikelet often male or neuter, usually differing in form and size, sometimes reduced to a stalk (<i>Arthraxon</i> , <i>Andropogon</i> , <i>Eremochloa</i>); glumes usually longer than lemmas | 8 |
| Spikelets solitary or, if in pairs or triplets, all similar (except in <i>Digitaria ctenantha</i> and <i>D. bicornis</i>); lower glume usually smaller than upper, sometimes absent; lower lemma usually resembling upper glume | 35 |
| 8. Lower glume of sessile spikelet fringed with curved spines | <i>Eremochloa</i> |
| Lower glume of sessile spikelet not fringed with curved spines | 9 |
| 9. Joints (internodes) of raceme axis stout, thickened upwards | 10 |
| Joints of raceme axis slender | 17 |
| 10. Lower glume of sessile spikelet fringed with stiff, straight hairs | <i>Elionurus</i> |
| Lower glume of sessile spikelet not fringed with stiff, straight hairs | 11 |
| 11. Spikelets awned, sessile spikelets not sunk in concavities in rhachis | 12 |
| Spikelets awnless, sessile spikelets sunk in concavities in rhachis | 14 |
| 12. Inflorescence barely exerted from a bladeless sheathing spathe (modified leaf) | <i>Schizachyrium</i> |
| Inflorescence not spatheate, usually clearly exerted | 13 |

13. Pedicel of pedicellate spikelet more than 3 times as long as broad; upper glume of sessile spikelet extended into a bristle	<i>Sehima</i>
Pedicel of pedicellate spikelet about as long as broad; upper glume of sessile spikelet without a bristle	<i>Ischaemum</i>
14. Racemes in clusters	<i>Coelorachis</i>
Racemes solitary	15
15. Sessile spikelet globular, conspicuously tubercled	<i>Hackelochloa</i>
Sessile spikelet pointed, smooth	16
16. Spikelets similar	<i>Hemarthria</i>
Spikelets dissimilar	<i>Rottboellia</i>
17. Spikelets of each pair alike in sex and shape	18
Spikelets of each pair dissimilar in sex and more or less in shape	20
18. Inflorescence a cylindrical, spike-like panicle	<i>Imperata</i>
Inflorescence a digitate or subdigitate racemose panicle	19
19. Annual; upper glume awned; northern	<i>Pseudopogonatherum</i>
Periennial; upper glume awnless; widespread	<i>Eulalia</i>
20. Pedicellate spikelet reduced to pedicel or absent	21
Pedicellate spikelet present	22
21. Inflorescence a subdigitate panicle	<i>Arthraxon</i>
Inflorescence a spatheate panicle	<i>Andropogon</i>
22. Panicle branches subtended by spathes	23
Panicle unbranched or with branches without spathes	27
23. Racemes reduced to a single fertile, awned spikelet surrounded by an involucre (ring) of 4 male or barren spikelets and 2 pedicellate male or barren spikelets	24
Racemes of several fertile spikelets, without involucre	25
24. Racemes falling entire at maturity, often with their spathes	<i>Iseilema</i>
Racemes breaking up at maturity, spathe persisting on plant	<i>Themeda</i>
25. Racemes in threes, entirely contained within strongly inflated spathes	<i>Spathia</i>
Racemes in pairs, exserted; spathes not strongly inflated	26
26. Lower glume of sessile spikelet rounded, or if keeled, then only towards tip	<i>Hyparrhenia</i>
Lower glume of sessile spikelet sharply keeled near margins	<i>Cymbopogon</i>
27. Inflorescence a solitary, spike-like raceme	28
Inflorescence not a solitary, spike-like raceme	30
28. Pedicelled spikelet female and awned, sessile spikelet 13–22 mm long; very rare	<i>Germainia</i>
Sessile spikelet female and awned, less than 10 mm long; common	29
29. Inflorescence heavily awned with long, intertwined awns	<i>Heteropogon</i>
Inflorescence not heavily awned, awns rather short, not intertwined	<i>Dichanthium</i>

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| 30. Racemes in a digitate, simple or rarely branched racemose panicle bearing spikelet pairs to close to base | 31 |
| Racemes in a compound panicle or a simple panicle with racemes borne on relatively long, naked branches | 32 |
| 31. Joints and pedicels with a translucent middle line between thickened margins; lower glume of awned spikelet pointed | <i>Bothriochloa</i> |
| Joints and pedicels without a translucent middle line; lower glume of awned spikelet blunt, rounded or truncate | <i>Dichanthium</i> |
| 32. Joints and pedicels with a translucent middle line between thickened margins | <i>Capillipedium</i> |
| Joints and pedicels without a translucent middle line | 33 |
| 33. Sessile spikelets and grain more or less dorsally compressed, at least when in flower | <i>Sorghum</i> |
| Sessile spikelets and grain more or less laterally compressed | 34 |
| 34. Racemes with 3 to several joints (internodes), rarely fewer; densely tussocked grass of stream banks and moist hollows | <i>Vetiveria</i> |
| Racemes with 1-2 joints, rarely 3 | <i>Chrysopogon</i> |
| 35. Male and female inflorescences on different plants | 36 |
| Inflorescence bisexual | 37 |
| 36. Spikelets in globular heads, less than 3.5 cm in diameter, more or less similar in male and female plants; desert dune grass | <i>Zygochloa</i> |
| Inflorescence very different in male and female plants, the male a cluster of stalked racemes about 8 cm in diameter, the female spherical, 20 cm or more in diameter; coastal dune grass | <i>Spinifex</i> |
| 37. Spikelets of two types, some on small terminal racemes, others solitary in leaf axils or on short axillary branches (in <i>Calyptochloa</i> , axillary spikelets concealed in swollen sheath bases) | 38 |
| Spikelets virtually all alike or, if dissimilar, then in same inflorescence | 40 |
| 38. Solitary spikelets borne singly on short, leafy branchlets in axils of culm leaves | <i>Dimorphochloa</i> |
| Solitary spikelets borne singly in culm leaf axils | 39 |
| 39. Tufted, wiry grass | <i>Cleistochloa</i> |
| Creeping grass | <i>Calyptochloa</i> |
| 40. Inflorescence a raceme of 1-2 female or bisexual basal spikelets and several male terminal spikelets fused to a leaf-like structure, which encapsulates seed at maturity; northern littoral | <i>Thuarea</i> |
| Not as above | 41 |
| 41. Lemma of upper (fertile) floret densely hairy on the back | <i>Entolasia</i> |
| Lemma of the upper (fertile) floret without hairs | 42 |
| 42. Spikelets, or racemes of 1-4 spikelets, sunk in hollows in a flattened or thickened inflorescence axis | 43 |
| Not as above | 45 |

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| 43. Glumes markedly unequal, plants stoloniferous
Glumes similar in length, plants tufted | <i>Stenotaphrum</i>
44 |
| 44. Tall perennial, up to 2.5 m
Short annual, up to 30 cm | <i>Ophiuros</i>
<i>Thaumastochloa</i> |
| 45. Racemes or panicle branches extended into a single terminal
bristle
Racemes or panicle branches with or without bristles, but
not as above | 46
49 |
| 46. Panicles open, leaves broad, folded between veins
Panicles racemose, leaves not broad and folded | <i>Setaria</i>
47 |
| 47. Spikelets borne in hollows along flattened rhachises, which
deflex at maturity
Not as above | <i>Paractaenum</i>
48 |
| 48. Spikelets plump, upper lemma more or less ridged
Spikelets narrow and pointed, upper lemma smooth | <i>Paspalidium</i>
<i>Pseudoraphis</i> |
| 49. Spikelets or groups of spikelets subtended by one to several
coarse bristles, which may be fused
Spikelets not subtended by bristles (sometimes bristle-like
hairs occur on spikelet pedicels in species of <i>Digitaria</i> and
<i>Urochloa</i>) | 50
53 |
| 50. Bristles persistent on spikelet pedicels
Bristles or involucre falling with spikelet at maturity | <i>Setaria</i>
51 |
| 51. Bristles united at base
Bristles not united at base | 52
<i>Pennisetum</i> |
| 52. Bristles forming a burr-like involucre (ring), which contains
1-5 spikelets
Bristles not forming a burr-like involucre, spikelets solitary | <i>Cenchrus</i>
<i>Plagiosetum</i> |
| 53. Inflorescence axis flat, broad, disarticulating at the joints,
together with contracted primary branches of 2-4
spikelets
Not as above | <i>Uranthoecium</i>
54 |
| 54. Inflorescence spatheate, each spathe enclosing several
spikes of spikelets congested in a fascicle; glumes en-
veloped in dense wool
Not as above | <i>Xerochloa</i>
55 |
| 55. Inflorescence a spike-like panicle or raceme
Inflorescence more or less clearly branched, not spike-like | 56
60 |
| 56. Glumes hairless; aquatic grass, northern
Upper glume hairy; not aquatic | <i>Hymenachne</i>
57 |
| 57. Lower glume half the length of upper glume
Glumes about equal in length | <i>Sacciolepis</i>
58 |
| 58. Upper glume with bristles and hairs in distinct tufts
Upper glume long and hairy, but lacking bristles in tufts | <i>Thyridolepis</i>
59 |
| 59. Plants stoloniferous, spikelets 7.5-12 mm long
Plants shortly rhizomatous, spikelets 5-7 mm long | <i>Paraneurachne</i>
<i>Neurachne</i> |
| 60. Glumes and sterile lower lemma covered with spreading,
hooked hairs | <i>Ancistrachne</i> |

Glumes and lower lemma not covered with spreading, hooked hairs	61
61. Spikelet subtended by a small, annular callus	<i>Eriochloa</i>
Spikelet not subtended by a small, annular callus	62
62. Spikelets awned	73
Spikelets awnless	63
63. Inflorescence racemose or digitate (raceme secondarily branched in <i>Digitaria porrecta</i>)	64
Inflorescence an open or contracted panicle	69
64. Lemma of upper (fertile) floret with its back towards rhachis	66
Lemma of upper (fertile) floret with its back turned away from rhachis	65
65. Lower glume well developed (sometimes not in <i>B. gilesii</i>); racemes arranged singly and separately along main axis	<i>Brachiaria</i>
Lower glume absent or minute; racemes digitate or subdigitate	<i>Axonopus</i>
66. Lemma of upper (fertile) floret with margins usually membranous, usually not inrolled over palea	<i>Digitaria</i>
Lemma of upper (fertile) floret relatively thick and rigid, margins typically inrolled over palea	67
67. Lower glume absent	<i>Paspalum</i>
Lower glume present	68
68. Fertile lemma with small, wavy, horizontal ridges and a pronounced apical point	<i>Urochloa</i>
Fertile lemma smooth and shingling, without an apical point	<i>Echinochloa</i>
69. Primary panicle branches bearing one, rarely 2, spikelets	<i>Homopholis</i>
Primary panicle branches bearing several spikelets	70
70. Glumes very unequal; at least the lower usually much shorter than spikelet	71
Glumes subequal to equal	72
71. Lower lemma with a pronounced longitudinal groove; spikelets slightly laterally flattened; northern	<i>Whiteochloa</i>
Lower glume without a groove, slightly dorsally compressed	<i>Panicum</i>
72. Glumes about half the length of spikelet	<i>Ottochloa</i>
Glumes equalling the length of spikelet	<i>Isachne</i>
73. Inflorescence an open panicle, not racemose	74
Inflorescence composed of several racemes	75
74. Spikelets covered with long, red, silky hairs	<i>Rhynchelytrum</i>
Spikelets more or less hairless; leaves and sheaths sticky and smelling of molasses	<i>Melinis</i>
75. Inflorescence digitate, usually with 2-3 racemes	<i>Alloteropsis</i>
Inflorescence not digitate	76
76. Glumes subequal, the lower awned	<i>Oplismenus</i>
Glumes very unequal, the lower not or scarcely awned	<i>Echinochloa</i>
77. Spikelets with 3 florets, uppermost bisexual, lower 2 male or neuter	78

Spikelets not as above	83
78. Inflorescence a spike-like raceme	<i>Tetrarrhena</i>
Inflorescence an open or contracted panicle	79
79. Both glumes shorter than florets	80
Both glumes longer than and concealing florets	82
80. Both glumes minute; sterile lemmas with long, fine awns	<i>Microlaena</i>
Glumes well developed; lemmas awnless, or with coarse, short awns	81
81. Upper sterile lemma ridged, or ornamented with hair tufts or appendages at base, awned or awnless	<i>Ehrharta</i>
Upper sterile lemma smooth, without hair tufts or basal appendages, without awns	<i>Hierochloe</i>
82. Lower florets neuter and rudimentary, not awned; glumes nearly equal	<i>Phalaris</i>
Lower florets often male, longer than bisexual floret, awned; glumes very unequal	<i>Anthoxanthum</i>
83. Inflorescence a digitate or subdigitate panicle	84
Inflorescence not a digitate or subdigitate panicle	93
84. Lemma distinctly awned	85
Lemma not, or minutely, awned	87
85. Lemma of fertile floret laterally compressed, keeled	<i>Chloris</i>
Lemma of fertile floret dorsally compressed, not keeled	86
86. Glumes markedly unequal in length, shorter than florets	<i>Enteropogon</i>
Glumes almost equal in length, longer than florets	<i>Austrochloris</i>
87. Axis of spike extending into a point	<i>Dactyloctenium</i>
Axis of spike not extending into a point	88
88. Spikelets not, or only weakly, compressed	<i>Leptochloa</i>
Spikelets laterally compressed	89
89. Glumes longer than florets	<i>Brachyachne</i>
Glumes shorter than florets	90
90. Spikelets with 1 or 2 florets; perennial	91
Spikelets with 3–15 florets, annual	92
91. Inflorescence with less than 10 racemes, plants with well-developed stolons or rhizomes	<i>Cynodon</i>
Inflorescence with more than 20 racemes, plants usually tufted	<i>Eustachys</i>
92. Lemma with a shortly awned tip, lateral nerves extending into 2 pointed shoulders; spikelets with 8–15 florets	<i>Acrachne</i>
Lemma without awns or shoulders; spikelets with 3–5 florets	<i>Eleusine</i>
93. Spikelets in burr-like, spined pairs	<i>Tragus</i>
Spikelets not burr-like, not in pairs	94
94. Inflorescence a true spike or simple raceme (occasionally paired in <i>Astrebula</i>)	95
Inflorescence an open, contracted or racemose panicle	104
95. Spikes cylindrical, with spikelets sunk in spike axis; uncommon coastal grass	<i>Lepturus</i>

Spikes or racemes not cylindrical, with spikelets not sunk in axis	96	
96. Spikelets with one floret	97	
Spikelets with 2 to several florets	99	
97. Spikelets in groups of 3 at each node		<i>Hordeum</i>
Spikelets borne singly or in pairs	98	
98. Glumes tapering into long, fine awns		<i>Perotis</i>
Glumes and lemmas awnless		<i>Zoysia</i>
99. Lemmas 2-cleft or 3-awned		<i>Astrelba</i>
Lemmas neither 2-cleft nor 3-awned	100	
100. Spikelets very narrow, arranged on one side of raceme; florets 2 per spikelet, lower bisexual		<i>Enteropogon</i>
Spikelets broader, arranged on either side of a true spike, florets several per spikelet	101	
101. Spikelets flattened, flat side towards axis	102	
Spikelets flattened, edge towards axis	103	
102. Annual; glumes blunt		<i>Triticum</i>
Perennial; glumes tapering		<i>Agropyron</i>
103. Annual; lemmas 3-nerved		<i>Tripogon</i>
Annual or perennial; lemmas 5-9 nerved		<i>Lolium</i>
104. Lemmas distinctly 8-cleft (to give 9 short awns)		<i>Enneapogon</i>
Lemmas not 8-cleft	105	
105. Spikelets borne in fascicles, each with a single bisexual spikelet, surrounded by several attenuated sterile spikelets		<i>Lamarckia</i>
Spikelets not borne in fascicles	106	
106. Spikelets with one bisexual floret	107	
Spikelets usually with 2 or more bisexual florets	120	
107. Glumes reduced to a rim; anthers usually 6; aquatic grass		<i>Leersia</i>
Glumes present; anthers 2, 3 or 4	108	
108. Spikelets falling entire at maturity, either singly or in clusters, panicles spike-like	109	
Spikelets usually breaking up at maturity above persistent glumes	110	
109. Glumes blunt, not awned; lemma with kneed awn from back		<i>Alopecurus</i>
Glumes awned from between lobes of a bilobed tip; lemma with a straight awn from tip		<i>Polypogon</i>
110. Inflorescence an interrupted spike-like panicle with spikelets in dense, globular clusters along rhachis		<i>Elytrophorus</i>
Spikelets not in dense, globular clusters along rhachis	111	
111. Glumes extended into long points and covered in long, fine, spreading hairs		<i>Lagurus</i>
Glumes not long-pointed and covered with long, fine hairs	112	
112. Lemmas more or less rigid at maturity and bearing 1 or 3 terminal awns or bristles	113	
Lemmas not rigid at maturity (sometimes awned from back or close to tip)	115	

113. Lemmas terminating in a single awn Lemmas terminating in 3 awns	<i>Stipa</i> 114
114. Lemma 2-cleft with 3 lobes shortly awned; palea deeply 1-cleft Lemmas not lobed	<i>Amphipogon</i> <i>Aristida</i>
115. Lemmas usually awned; if awnless, then glumes longer than lemma; seed not falling free Lemmas awnless, usually longer than glumes; seed falling free	116 <i>Sporobolus</i>
116. Glumes with short spines along keel; panicles spikelike, often dense Glumes without short spines along keel; panicles open or spike-like	<i>Echinopogon</i> 117
117. Lemma with a slender awn from back, twice to several times as long as itself Lemma shortly awned or awnless	<i>Dichelachne</i> 118
118. Lemma awned from tip Lemma awned from back	<i>Eriachne</i> 119
119. Panicle open, glumes longer than lemma Panicle open or contracted; if open, glumes shorter than lemma	<i>Agrostis</i> <i>Deyeuxia</i>
120. Tall, reed-like, rhizomatous-based grasses of moist places; panicles plumose Plants not tall and reed-like	121 122
121. Lemmas hairy, rhachillae not hairy Lemmas not hairy, rhachillae hairy	<i>Arundo</i> <i>Phragmites</i>
122. Robust annual; glumes more than 15 mm long; awn with distinct knee Not as above	<i>Avena</i> 123
123. Lemmas with 2 more or less awned lobes and a long, usually twisted, central awn Not as above	124 125
124. Base of plant swollen and bulbous; lower leaf sheaths woolly Not as above	<i>Monachather</i> <i>Danthonia</i>
125. Lemmas 3-lobed or 3-awned Lemmas neither 3-lobed nor 3-awned	126 128
126. Lemmas 3-lobed, awnless Lemmas 3-awned or 3-bristled	<i>Triodia</i> 127
127. Lemma with lateral lobes tapering into fine bristles Lemma 3-awned, lateral awns arising abruptly from 2 lateral shoulders	<i>Plectrachne</i> <i>Triraphis</i>
128. Panicle racemose Panicle not racemose	129 131
129. Glumes both more or less awned Glumes awnless	<i>Dinebra</i> 130
130. Lemmas truncate, not or scarcely pointed; spikelets dorsally compressed	<i>Leptochloa</i>

Lemma with a minute point between 2 lobes; spikelets laterally compressed	<i>Diplachne</i>
131. Spikelets in dense clusters at ends of panicle branches Spikelets not densely clustered at ends of panicle branches	<i>Dactylis</i> 132
132. Lower lemma awnless, upper lemma with a short dorsal awn Lemmas either all awned or all awnless	133 134
133. Spikelets 2 mm long Spikelets 4–6 mm long	<i>Aira</i> <i>Holcus</i>
134. Lemma with kneed awn from back Lemma awnless, or with a straight awn	135 136
135. Lemma 7-nerved; glumes bluntly pointed Lemma 3-nerved; glumes acutely pointed	<i>Amphibromus</i> <i>Trisetum</i>
136. Spikelets 2-flowered Spikelets with 3 or more flowers	<i>Eriachne</i> 137
137. Lower leaves with clasping auricles at base of blade; lemmas 6–9 mm long, awnless or with a short awn Leaves usually without auricles	<i>Festuca</i> 138
138. Lemmas with awns from back or shortly below tip Lemmas not awned, or awned from tip	<i>Bromus</i> 139
139. Lemmas more than 15 mm long, awnless or with a minute awn from tip Lemmas, excluding awns, less than 10 mm long	<i>Bromus</i> 140
140. Panicle strongly contracted, spike-like Panicle open or contracted, not spike-like	141 143
141. Short, slender annual; inflorescence 2–7 cm long, densely cylindrical Annual or perennial; inflorescence never cylindrical, mostly more than 10 cm long	<i>Lophochloa</i> 142
142. Tall, robust perennial; inflorescence up to 50 cm long; Lemmas 2 mm long; awns about 2 mm long Not as above; spikelets with 6 to many flowers; lemmas 3-nerved	<i>Ectrosia</i> <i>Eragrostis</i>
143. Lemmas awned Lemmas awnless	144 145
144. Lemmas 5–9 mm long; awns up to 15 mm long Lemmas 2 mm long; awns about 2 mm long	<i>Vulpia</i> <i>Ectrosia</i>
145. Lemmas 3-nerved Lemmas 5–9-nerved	<i>Eragrostis</i> 146
146. Lemmas as broad as long; spikelets nodding Lemmas longer than broad; spikelets not nodding	<i>Briza</i> 147
147. Lemmas rounded on back, 7-nerved; rare grass of wet places Lemmas keeled on back, 5-nerved	<i>Glyceria</i> <i>Poa</i>