



HOLCUS LANATUS

Yorkshire Fog

A loose to compactly tufted perennial covered with soft hairs, 20–100 cm tall. *Culms* erect or ascending from a prostrate base, branching from the base or the lower nodes, smooth. *Nodes* more or less concealed by the leaf sheaths, rooting from the lower prostrate ones. *Leaves* mostly on the culms, pale greyish-green, silky-soft. *Leaf sheaths* fairly loose, rounded on the back, usually with reflexed hairs. *Ligule* 1–4 mm long, membranous. *Leaf blades* narrowing gradually from near the base to a fine point, up to 20 cm long and 3–10 mm wide.

Inflorescence a fairly dense panicle, erect or nodding, whitish to pale green, pinkish or purple, up to 20 cm long, 1–8 cm wide, the branches hairy. *Spikelets* (S) all similar, 4–6 mm long, often gaping, shortly pedicellate, falling entire at maturity. *Florets* 2, the lower bisexual and the upper generally male. *Glumes* (G₁, G₂) the length of the spikelet, papery, slightly keeled, stiffly hairy on the back, particularly along the nerves and keel, dissimilar; the lower glume (G₁) slightly shorter than G₂, 1-nerved, narrow; the upper (G₂) 3-nerved, the central nerve terminating in a short 1 mm awn. *Lemmas* (L₁, L₂) about half the spikelet length, enclosed by the glumes, papery-firm, without hairs, faintly 5-nerved, slightly keeled; L₁ very rounded; L₂ narrower, with a short awn arising from the back near the tip, which curves back when dry. *Paleas* (P₁, P₂) membranous, faintly 2-nerved and rounded at the tip; P₁ as long as L₁; P₂ about $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of L₂. *Anthers* 3, yellow, 2 mm long in each floret.

This is a temperate zone grass, which may be found occasionally in the cooler areas of southeast Queensland receiving winter rainfall.

REFERENCES

Bailey (1902), p. 1889; Gardner (1952), p. 41; Burbidge and Gray (1970), pp. 33-34; Willis (1970), p. 132; Beadle *et al.* (1972), p. 648; Black (1978), pp. 166-67.

KEY TO SPECIES

This is the only species occurring in southern Queensland.