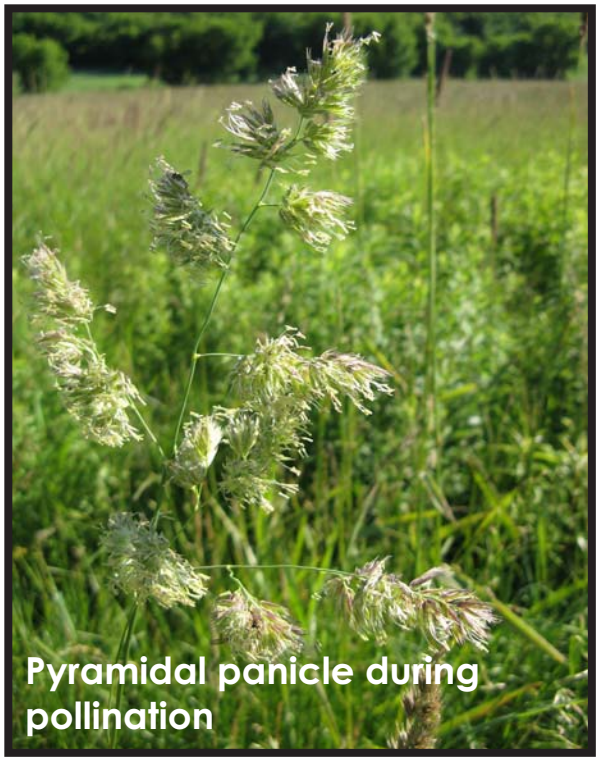
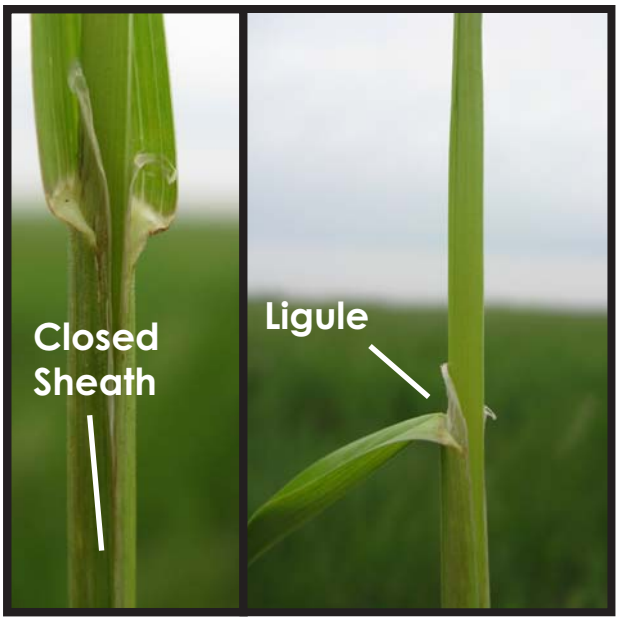
Orchard grass
Dactylis glomerata

Minnesota C-Value: 0
Wetland Indicator Status: FACU
Non-native


Pyramidal panicle during pollination



Closed panicle prior to pollination

Leaves: 3-8 mm wide and 4-6 in. long. Sheathes are closed toward the base with fused margins. Conspicuous white midvein. Ligule is 3-8 mm long.

Stems: Erect, bluish-green in color. Basal branching. 1.5 - 4 ft tall.

Flowers and fruit: Dense clusters of spikelets, 5-23 cm long and 1-8 cm wide, clustered at the tips of branches. Narrow panicle when young becoming pyramidal at pollination. Spikelets 3-flowered, strongly flattened on short stalks.

Plant communities: Meadows, lawns, along roadsides.

Comments: Cool season clumped perennial introduced as a forage crop. Source of hayfever in summer. Distinguished by clusters of spikelets and blue-green color.