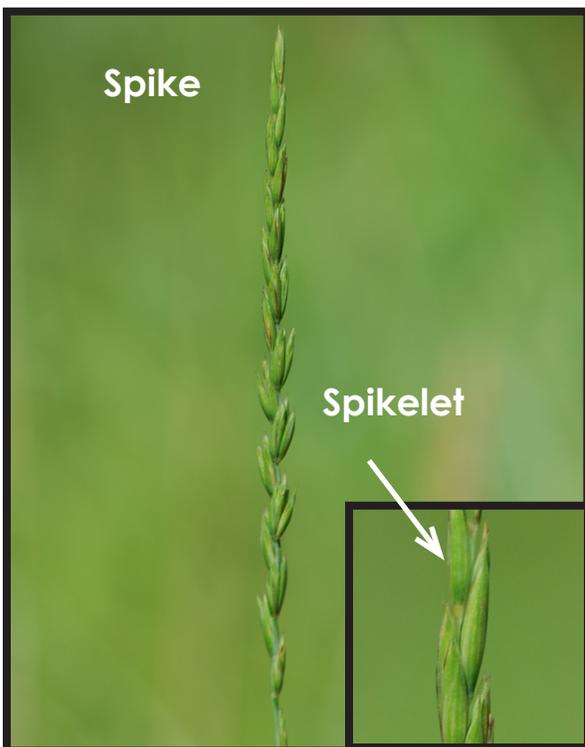
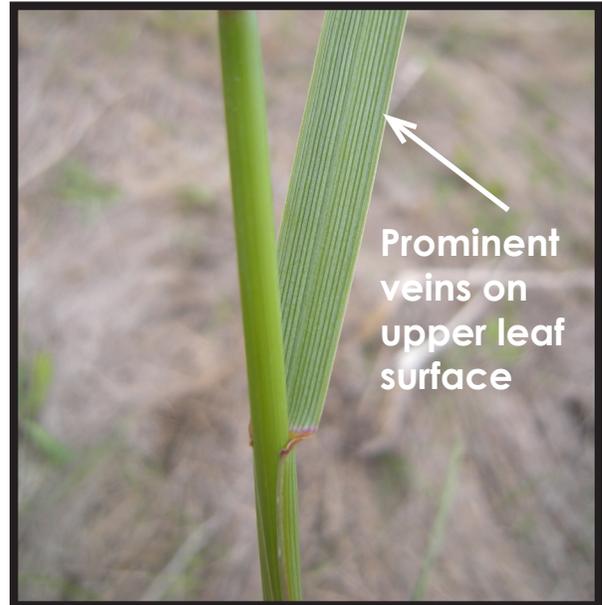


Western Wheatgrass

Pascopyrum smithii

Minnesota C-Value: 3
Wetland Indicator Status: FACU+
Native



Leaves: 5 - 25 cm long and up to 6 mm wide. Blue-green leaves are rough on the upper surface and margin. With prominent veins. Short ligule < 0.5 mm. Blades attach to stem at 45 degree angles.

Stems: 1- 3 ft stems are single or in small clusters. Sheaths smooth, sometimes purplish. Claw-like auricles < 1 mm. Slender rhizomes.

Flowers and fruit: 5 - 15 cm long, stiff, erect spike. May be smooth or have short hairs. Spikelets are overlapping to crowded. 2-12 florets per spikelet. Awned or unawned.

Plant communities: Does well in sandy or clay soils. Common on moist to dry soils and upland prairie.

Comments: Perennial cool season grass. Commonly used in erosion control projects due to its widely spreading rhizomes. Status as a native species to Minnesota is unresolved.