

Agrostis gigantea

**NON-NATIVE
INVASIVE**



giant bentgrass

Family Poaceae

Origin Non-native

WIS Code FAC CoC -1

DESCRIPTION

Perennial grass with smooth erect stems to 1.5 m tall, often reclining just at the base, and spreading via stiff creeping rhizomes (underground stems). Leaves are alternate (20 cm long, 5 to 10 cm wide), flat, hairless, mostly smooth on both surfaces and have a smooth sheath with the edges sometimes overlapping to form a long "V." Nodes along the stem are smooth and typically reddish.

FLOWERS AND FRUITS

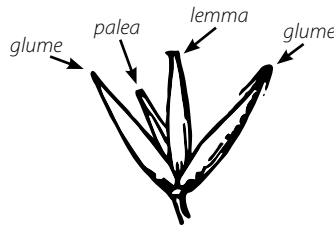
June through October. Purplish red flower spikes are formed on branched stalks in overall pyramid-like shape to 20 cm long. Spikelets are somewhat flattened, lance-shaped tapering to a pointed tip and at the base are a pair of lance-shaped bracts (glumes) with pointed tips.



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Agrostis gigantea

HABITAT

Pastures, fields, roadsides, and other disturbed sites.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Agrostis perennans, upland bentgrass, is found in more natural sites. It has shorter weak stalks (0.5 to 1 m) and an airy delicate appearance. A technical difference is the palea, which is absent or <0.5 mm long, whereas the palea of *A. gigantea* is 0.6-1.2 mm long.



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Agrostis perennans