

MEADOW FESCUE

Festuca elatior

FAMILY: Gramineae

TRIBE: Festuceae

GENUS: Festuca

SPECIES: elatior

COMMON NAMES:

Meadow Fescue
Tall Fescue
English Blue Grass
Dover Grass
Randall Grass
Evergreen Grass

POLLEN GRAINS:

Spheroidal or ovoidal, 31-36.5 microns in diameter. Germ pore is circular with wavy margin and is 2.5-4.5 microns in diameter.

POLLENATING PERIOD:

June and July. May in warmer sections.

DISTRIBUTION:

Throughout Canada and the United States except the deep South and other warmer areas.

ALLERGIC IMPORTANCE:

Important where abundant.

Meadow fescue is an erect perennial 2-5 feet tall. The culms are simple and smooth. The panicle is 4-14 inches long, erect or nodding at the tip, much branched to nearly simple. Spikelets awnless or, rarely, short-awned. Leaf blades are flat, 3/16-3/8 inch wide.

Widely cultivated for hay and pasture throughout the cooler parts of the United States. Considered the most important fescue as to distribution and pollination.

WILD OAT

Avena fatua

FAMILY: Aveneae

GENUS: Avena

SPECIES: fatua

Wild Oat
Wheat Oats
Oat Grass
Flex Grass

Ovoidal, 54-62 microns long. Germ pore is circular to slightly irregular in outline, 4-8 microns in diameter and found at large end of grain. Operculum is half as broad as pore. Exine is coarsely granular.

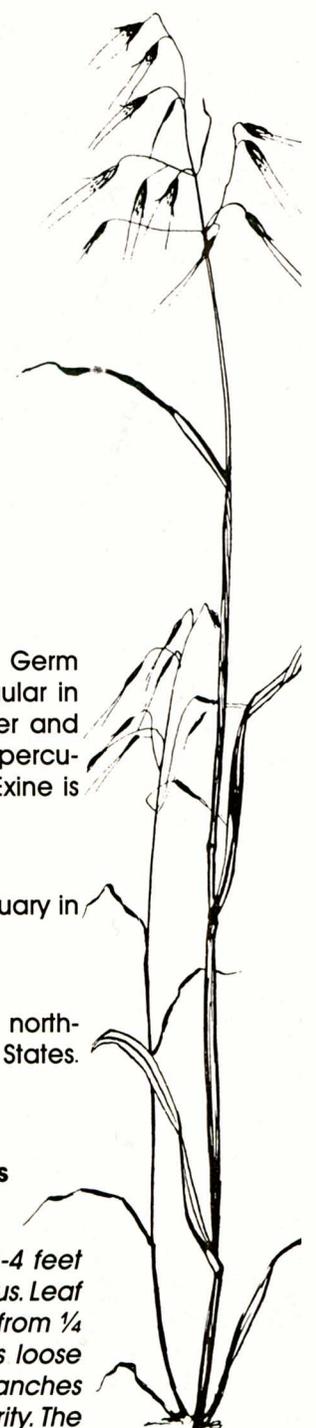
June to August. As early as January in Southern California.

Missouri to Pennsylvania and northward. Dakotas and Western States. Rare in the Eastern States.

Moderately important in areas of abundance.

Wild oat is an erect annual, 1-4 feet tall. Culms are stout and glabrous. Leaf blades are numerous, flat and from 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide. The panicle is loose and open with the slender branches becoming horizontal with maturity. The three-flowered spikelets have stiff geniculate awns 1-2 inches long.

Wild oat is a common weed in cultivated soil and waste places and is a very modest producer of pollen. Found mostly in the Pacific States. Cultivated oat, though widely and extensively cultivated produces a scant amount of pollen.





Festuca elatior
(Meadow Fescue)

Avena fatua
(Wild Oat)