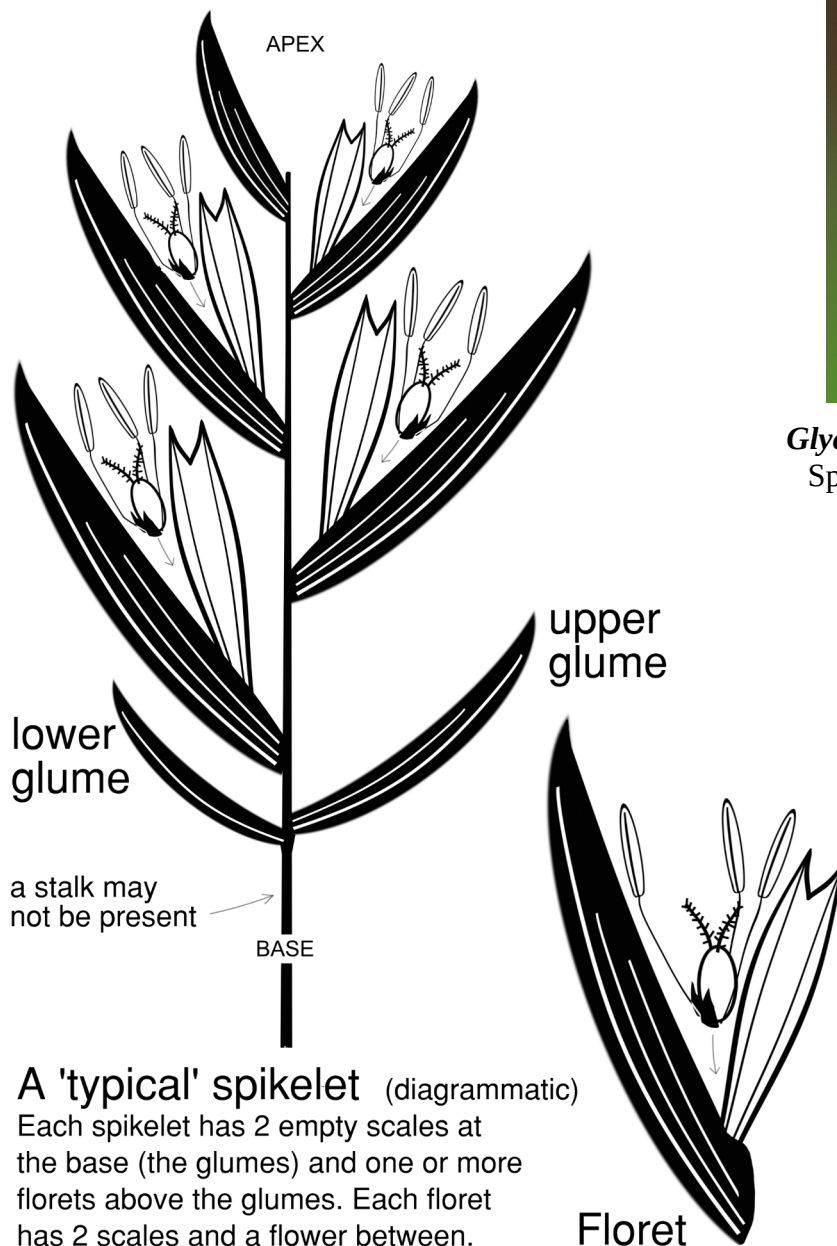


A guide to some common Otway Grasses

* indicates an introduced species

A note on grass structure :

The flowering part of each grass stem is called the inflorescence.
 The basic unit of an inflorescence is the spikelet.
 The diagram below illustrates some aspects of spikelet structure.



A 'typical' spikelet (diagrammatic)
 Each spikelet has 2 empty scales at the base (the glumes) and one or more florets above the glumes. Each floret has 2 scales and a flower between.



Glyceria australis (Austral Sweetgrass)
 Spikelet flowering: the lower 7 florets are open and flowering; the upper 3 may not fully develop.



* ***Agrostis capillaris*** (Browntop Bent)
Rhizomic perennial; spikelets very small, with one floret.



Anthosachne scabra (Common Wheatgrass)
Slender, tufted perennial; spikelets carried flat-side to the central axis, each with several awned florets.



* ***Anthoxanthum odoratum***
(Sweet Vernalgrass)
Tufted perennial; spikelets with one fertile floret.
Inflorescences flowering (left), fruiting (right)



* ***Avena barbata*** (Bearded Oat)
Rather tall, slender, tufted annual; spikelets with 2 or 3 florets, each floret with a long awn.



Austrostipa flavescens (Coast Speargrass)
 Tufted perennial; spikelets with 1 long-awned floret.
 [*Lagurus ovatus* (Hair's-tail) in the background.]



* ***Briza maxima*** (Quaking-grass)
 Loosely tufted annual; spikelets plump, each with several florets.



* ***Briza minor*** (Lesser Quaking-grass)
 Loosely tufted annual; spikelets plump, each with several florets.



* ***Bromus catharticus*** (Prairie Grass)
Tufted perennial; spikelets flattened, each with several florets.



* ***Calamagrostis arenaria*** (Marram Grass)
(Formerly *Ammophila arenaria*)
Vigorous, tufted and rhizomic perennial of sand dunes; spikelets with one floret.



* ***Bromus diandrus*** (Ripgut Grass)
Loosely tufted annual; each spikelet with several long-awned florets.



* ***Catapodium rigidum*** (Fern Grass)
Small loosely tufted annual; spikelets with several florets.



* ***Cenchrus clandestinus*** (Kikuyu)
 Vigorous creeping perennial, capable of spreading extensively; inflorescence of few spikelets hidden within upper leaf sheaths.



* ***Cynosurus echinatus*** (Rough Dog's-tail)
 Slender tufted annual; inflorescence bristly; fertile spikelets with 2 or 3 florets, mixed with sterile spikelets.



* ***Cynodon dactylon*** (Couch Grass)
 Mat-forming, creeping perennial; inflorescence branches radiating from the stem apex; spikelets tiny, with one floret.



* ***Dactylis glomerata*** (Cocksfoot)
 Tufted perennial; inflorescence one-sided; each spikelet with several florets.



* ***Ehrharta erecta*** (Panic Veldtgrass)
Competitive, loosely tufted perennial; spikelets with one fertile flower.



* ***Hordeum leporinum*** (Barley Grass)
Loosely tufted annual; spikelets in 3's – one central fertile, 2 sterile, each with 1 long-awned floret.



* ***Holcus lanatus*** (Fog Grass)
Softly hairy, tufted perennial; spikelets with one fertile floret.



Imperata cylindrica (Blady Grass)
Vigorous rhizomic perennial (potentially invasive); inflorescences dense, fluffy; spikelets with one fertile floret.



Lachnagrostis billardierei

(Coast Blown-grass)

Loosely tufted perennial; inflorescences very loose and open; spikelets small, with one floret.



Microlaena stipoides (Weeping Grass)

Slender, tufted and/or rhizomic perennial; each spikelet with two awns and one fertile floret.



* ***Lagurus ovatus*** (Hare's-tail Grass)

Slender, tufted annual; inflorescences dense, fluffy; spikelets with one floret.



* ***Phalaris aquatica*** (Phalaris)

Robust, tufted perennial; spikelets flattened, with one fertile floret.



Phragmites australis (Common Reed)
Large, rhizomic, aquatic perennial; spikelets with several florets.



Poa poiformis (Coast Tussockgrass)
Tufted perennial of coastal dunes and bluffs; spikelets small, each with several florets.



Poa labillardierei (Tussock Grass)
Tussock-forming perennial; spikelets small, each with several florets.



*** *Poa trivialis*** (Rough Meadowgrass)
Loosely tufted perennial (sometimes with runners); spikelets small, with several florets.



*** *Polypogon monspeliensis***
(Annual Beardgrass)

Loosely tufted annual of damp sites; spikelets with one floret.



Rytidospermum geniculatum
(Knead Wallabygrass)

Small tufted perennial; spikelets each with several florets, appearing bristly when mature.



Rytidospermum caespitosum
(Common Wallabygrass)

Tufted perennial; spikelets each with several florets, appearing bristly when mature.



Rytidospermum racemosum
(Clustered Wallabygrass)

Loosely tufted perennial; spikelets each with several florets, appearing bristly when mature.



Male inflorescence

***Spinifex sericeus* (Spinifex)**

Distinctive grass with long runners on coastal sands; spikelets separate male and female, the latter each with one fertile floret, the florets forming a spiky 'ball' at maturity.



*** *Stenotaphrum secundatum* (Buffalo Grass)**

Creeping, sward-forming perennial; inflorescences one-sided; spikelets with one fertile floret.



*** *Sporobolus africanus* (Rat-tail Grass)**

Strongly-rooted, tufted perennial; spikelets very small, each with one floret.



Themeda triandra (Kangaroo Grass)
Tufted perennial; spikelets packed tightly in clusters of seven – the single fertile one in each cluster has a dark awn.



*** *Vulpia fasciculata*** (Dune Fescue)
Slender, tufted annual; spikelets with several awned florets.



*** *Vulpia myuros*** (Rat-tail Fescue)
Slender tufted annual; spikelets with several awned florets.