POACEAE (GRAMINEAE) Festucaceae

*Poa pratensis* L.

*Kentucky bluegrass*

**FORM:** Introduced, rhizomatous, turf forming, cool season perennial of variable height, erect culms may reach 1m (3ft).

**LEAVES:** Soft, flat leaves 2-4mm wide with distinct prow-shaped tips; sheaths closed half their length; auricles lacking; short and truncate ligules, 2mm long.

**INFLORESCENCE:** Purplish-tinged, spreading panicle, 3-10cm (1-4in) long, obtaining a nodding appearence when mature; lemmas awnless with dense webby hairs at the base (1); May-Oct.

**ENEMIES:** Fire: resistant, but damage from hot, spring burns, regeneration from rhizomes to preburn levels within 2-5 years.

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** *Poa palustris* (fowl bluegrass), stoloniferous with longer ligules and *Poa compressa* (Canadian bluegrass), culms strongly flattened.

**NOTES:** Often dominates heavily grazed dry and moist meadows.