

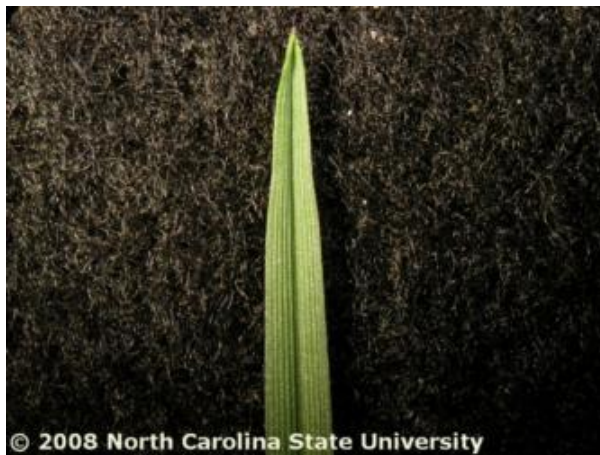
Ryegrass, Perennial

[*Lolium perenne* L.]

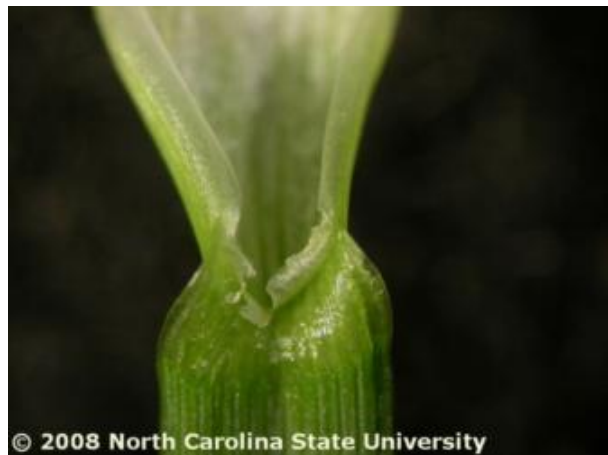
Perennial ryegrass is a bunch-type grass that is used for winter overseeding on sites where high quality and winter color are needed. The texture, color, and density of perennial ryegrass are very similar to those of Kentucky bluegrass. Perennial ryegrass is often utilized for winter overseeding on golf course fairways and teeboxes, athletic fields, and high profile home lawns. Perennial ryegrass is often confused with tall fescue and/or Kentucky bluegrass. However, Kentucky bluegrass has a boat-shaped leaf tip and distinctive light-colored lines on both sides of the midrib. Tall fescue has rough leaf blade margins whereas perennial ryegrass has smooth ones. Also, tall fescue has rolled veneration in the leaf bud and perennial ryegrass has folded veneration.



Characteristic	Description
Seedhead / Flower	a spike, with flattened spikelets along each stem
Vernation Type	leaves folded in the bud
Ligule Type	membranous; collar-like to blunt, may be toothed near top, 0.02 - 0.06 inches (0.5 - 1.5 mm) long
Growth Season / Life Cycle	cool season turf or perennial weed
Auricle Type	rudimentary
Leaf Blade Tip Shape	sharp-pointed; bright green, sharply creased, deeply ridged upper surface, lower surface smooth and glossy, edges slightly rough
Leaf Blade Width	0.08 - 0.2 inches (2 - 5 mm) wide
Stolon Presence	absent
Rhizome Presence	absent
Collar Type	divided by midrib, not hairy, distinct
Sheath Margin	
Sheath Type	sheath is usually flattened, reddish at base



perennial ryegrass



perennial ryegrass ligule

Note: Still not sure this is the right turfgrass? [The Turf & Weed Identification Decision Aid](#) may help. Check the TurfFiles [glossary](#) for definitions of unfamiliar terms.

Need help in selecting the best turfgrass for your particular situation? The [Turf/Cultivar Selection Decision Aid](#) will help you sort through the options which are available. For more information on turfgrass/cultivar selection, establishing a new lawn, caring for a new lawn, or renovating a lawn, see [AG-69, Carolina Lawns](#).

Diseases Which May Affect This Turfgrass

[brown blight](#)
[brown patch](#)
[damping off](#)
[dollar spot](#)
[fairy ring](#)
[gray leaf spot](#)
[gray snow mold](#)
[powdery mildew](#)
[Pythium blight](#)
[Pythium root rot](#)
[red thread](#)
[slime mold](#)

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