

How to Identify a Wild Rye Seedling Data Sheet

Key Characteristics

- Usually has a rounded tiller base.
- Auricles are visible to the naked eye (on most species).
- Short ligule with a ragged top.
- Leaves feel rough when rubbed between fingers, but when thumbnail is run across the leaf perpendicular to the ridges, the veins don't feel like "mountain ranges".
- Rolled emergent leaf (newest leaf).
- Single leaf to start with (Monocot).
- Often with purple colors.
- Look for the seed under the soil on the root system, Wild Rye seeds vary in appearance based on species and variety.
- Germinates in spring or fall when soil temperature is between 39 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Different species or individuals can vary from grass-green to a blue-green.

Look-alikes

- Indiangrass (flattened tiller base).
- Switchgrass (ligule looks like a tuft of hair).



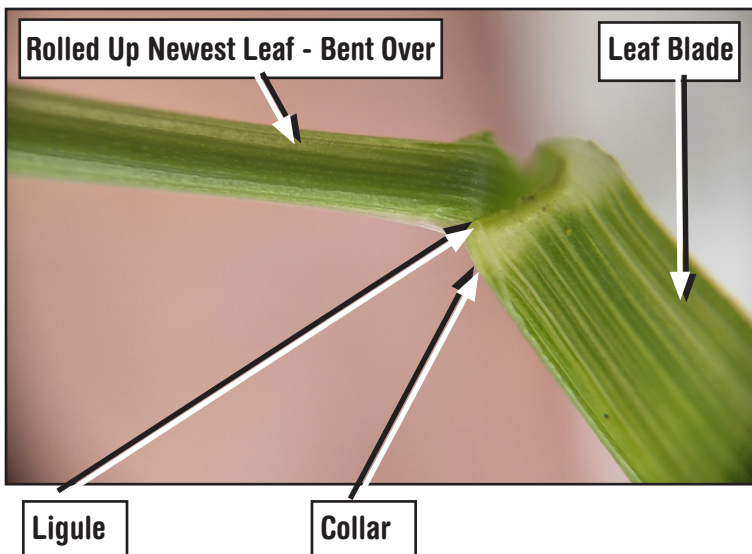
Rolled Emergent Leaf



Examples of Different of Wild Rye Seeds



Rounded Tiller Base



Auricle