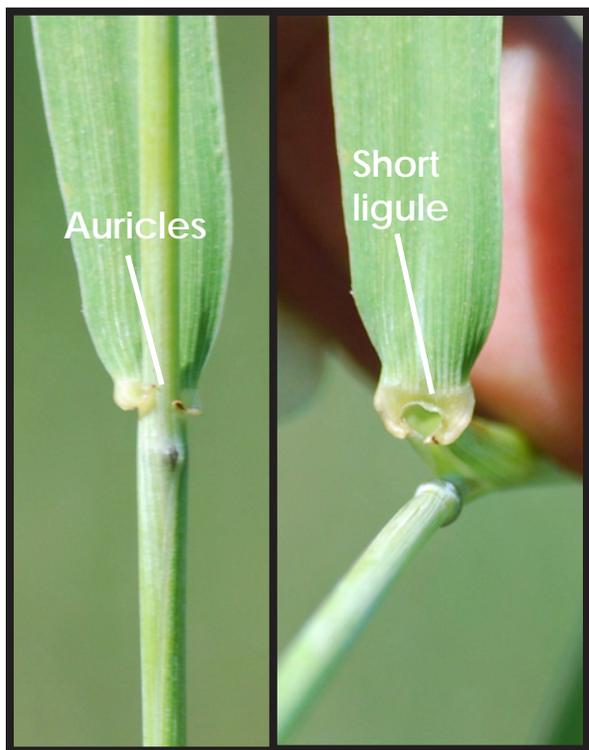


Virginia wild rye

Elymus virginicus

Minnesota C-Value: 4
Wetland Indicator Status: FACW-
Native



Leaves: 5-15 mm wide, both sides rough to touch. Sheaths mostly open, sometimes purplish at base. Auricles typically present, clawlike. Ligules short (0.5 mm) membranous, truncate to rounded.

Stems: Up to 5 ft. Light green, smooth, and erect.

Flowers and fruit: Spike 2-6 in. long. Densely covered with stiff ascending spikelets. Awns straight, up to 1cm long.

Plant communities: Variable, including streambanks, floodplains, marsh edges, fields, and disturbed sites.

Comments: Perennial cool-season bunchgrass. Distinguished by its stiff, erect spikes and straight awns. Used as a cover crop in seed mixes for wetlands. Its FAC- relative, Canada wild rye (*E. canadensis*) has wider leaf blades, larger drooping spikes, and awns that spread outward when mature.