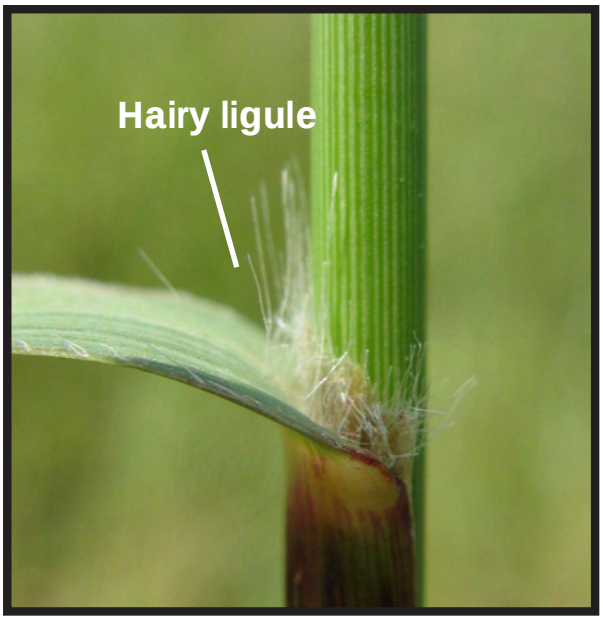
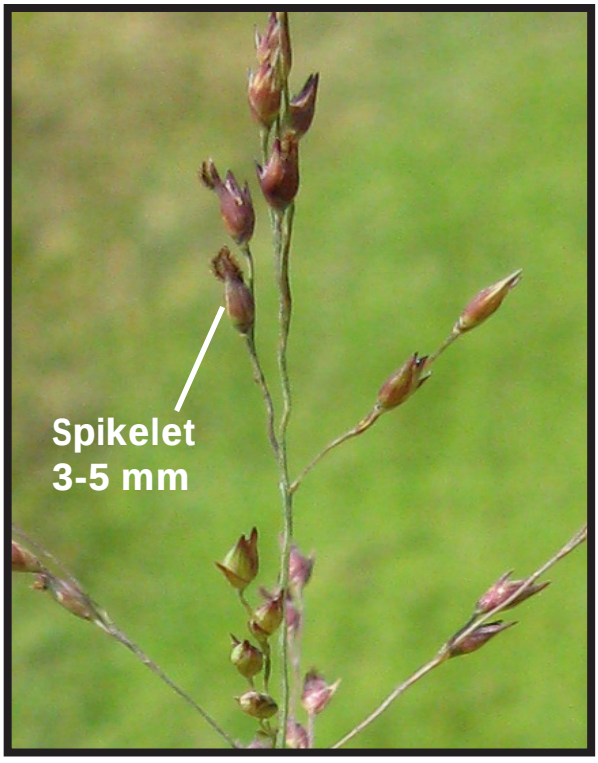
Switchgrass

Panicum virgatum

Minnesota C-Value: 2
Wetland Indicator Status: FAC+
Native





Leaves: Leaves 1-3 ft long with prominent midrib. Long hairs at ligule and leaf base.

Stems: 4-7 ft tall, erect, hairless.

Flowers and fruit: Purple tinged spikelets, 3-5 mm long. Flowers born singly at ends of branches in large, wide open panicle. Panicle often reaches 15-20 inches in length.

Plant communities: Uplands, wet meadows, wet prairies, and wet, sandy soils.

Comments: Warm season perennial. Earlier in the growing season, switchgrass can resemble many other grasses. A distinguishing characteristic is the tufts of hair that surround the ligule and run a short distance up the leaf base.