

Many kinds of weed and other grass seeds are found in seed of the fine bents from all sources, but none is sufficiently serious to command attention. They are very helpful to the seed analyst, however, in determining the source of the seed.

Enlarged illustrations of the three important kinds of bent seed are presented for comparison. It will be seen that seeds of redtop are slightly larger than those of either of the other kinds. Some of the seeds of Rhode

Redtop (*Agrostis alba*)Rhode Island bent
(*Agrostis tenuis*)Velvet bent
(*Agrostis canina*)

Chaff of bent grass

a and b, side and edge views of poorly developed chaffy seed. c, the chaffy scales separating, as in well developed seed.

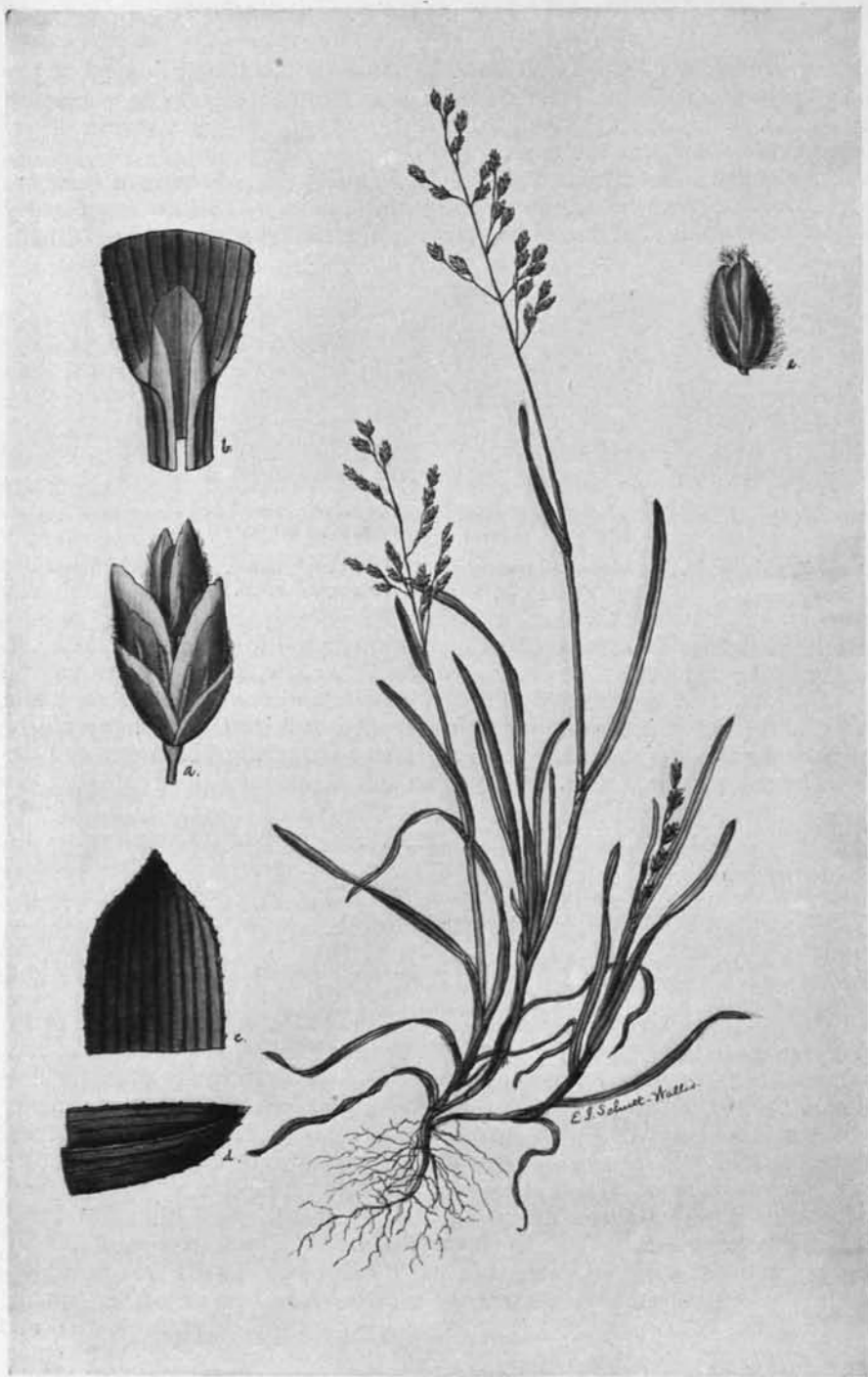
Island bent bear an awn, or bristle, from near the broad end of the seed. Many of the velvet bent seeds bear a similar bristle from near the middle of the seed. Seeds of redtop and of Rhode Island bent are smooth, while those of velvet bent are minutely roughened and dull. With the aid of a good hand lens (not a reading glass) any observing purchaser can determine the presence of a large proportion of redtop.

Annual Bluegrass (*Poa annua*)

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In early spring perhaps no other grass is as much the subject of inquiry as the subject of this sketch. At this time of the year it is conspicuous in lawns and on putting greens as well as in shady places where most other grasses do not thrive. On putting greens it commonly appears in autumn, and indeed in the latitude of Washington, D. C., often blooms before winter. In the early spring it grows rapidly and blooms before any other turf grass. When once established it volunteers year after year, increasing in abundance. In spring it is often the most abundant grass in some putting greens and in shady lawns. It vanishes completely by mid-summer, at least as far north as Washington, D. C., but in Philadelphia and northward some plants may be found at any time during the summer.

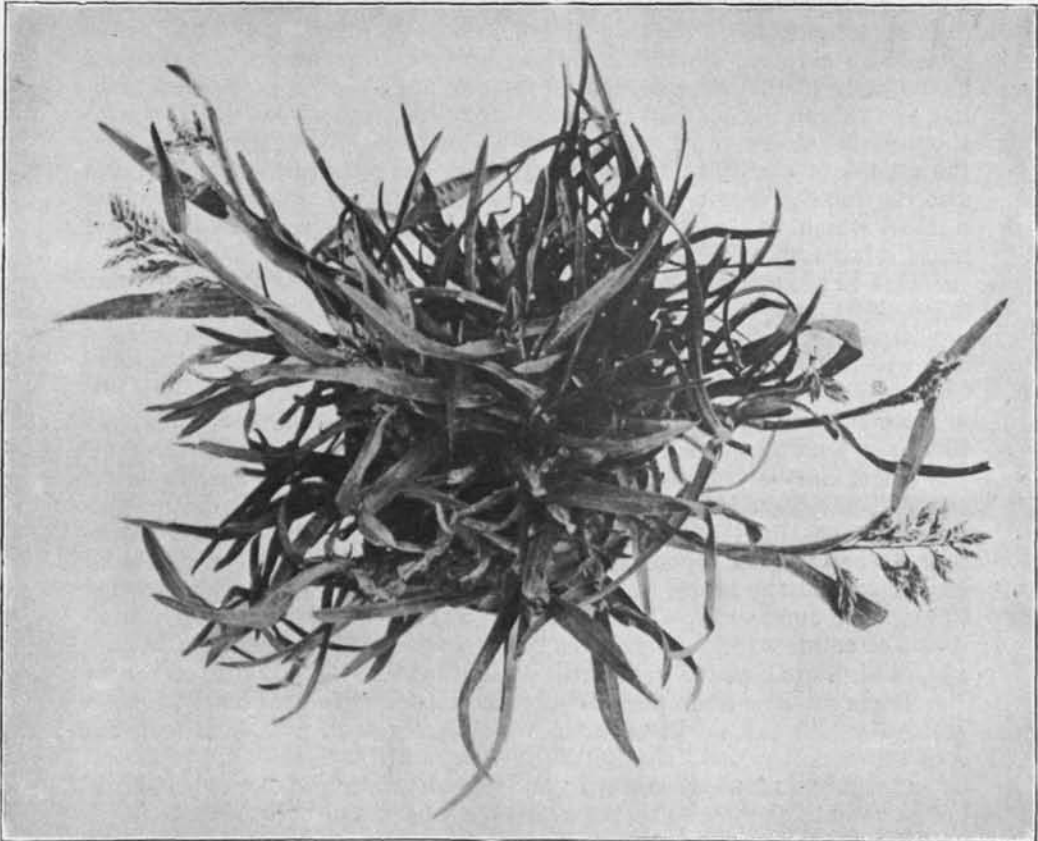
Poa annua, the scientific name being quite as familiar as its common name, is easily distinguishable by its small tufts, fibrous roots, bright green not at all bluish color, soft texture, and the cross crumpling of the leaves near the base. The grass is native to Europe, but it now occurs practically everywhere in the United States.



Annual Bluegrass (*Poa annua* Linnaeus)

Plant in bloom, natural size: *a*, spikelet with four florets, enlarged; *e*, a single floret, enlarged; *c*, *d*, the boat shaped tip of the leaf, enlarged; *b*, the ligule, where the blade and sheath join enlarged.

As a putting grass *Poa annua* is not without merit, at least in some latitudes. When abundant enough to make a solid turf, its putting quality is most excellent but a little slow. If only scattered plants occur in the turf, it is sometimes objectionable, as it may make the putting surface uneven. No matter how closely the grass is cut it will still blossom and make seeds at the very surface of the ground. As the grass nears maturity it gradually becomes paler, partly due to the abundant flowers, and is then not so attractive.



A young plant of Annual Bluegrass just as it begins to bloom in Spring

On the whole the grass is to be considered desirable rather than a weed. Certainly it would be very expensive to keep it out of greens altogether, and surely its demerits if any are not sufficient to justify the attempt.

Seed of annual bluegrass has occasionally been obtainable in the trade, but usually containing much other grass seed harvested with it.