

# CORNER POST

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FOR THE  
FORAGE  
INFORMATION  
YOU NEED.



**FORAGE FIRST**<sup>®</sup>  
WHEN YIELD AND QUALITY MATTER<sup>®</sup>



## Weed Inspection & Forage Identification Tips

Summer means weeds in pastures and hay fields become more of a problem. Set aside time to check your hay fields for problems or poisonous weeds that may affect grazing animals or livestock that will soon be fed harvested forage.

Below are resources we recommend keeping handy to identify potentially poisonous weeds for livestock (with herbicide control options):

- **University of Wisconsin:** <http://bit.ly/2uq0bZP>
- **Purdue University:** <http://bit.ly/2sGpf1v>
- **University of Minnesota:** <http://bit.ly/2tR2isG>



## Forage Identification

At the same time, perhaps it makes sense to identify what basic grass species are in your fields. Below are checkpoints when in the field to help identify species. This is especially useful after a new seeding or inter-seeding practice.

It's helpful to start by looking for presence of auricles (short attachments at base of leaf blade, usually helping connect lower leaf to stem) and ligules (small, thin tissue at junction of leaf sheath and stem).



### Perennial Ryegrass

- Glossy underside of leaves
- Long auricles
- Purpling at base of stem
- Folded vernation
- No awns on seed (on more mature plants)



### Annual Ryegrass

- Smooth, shiny underside of leaves
- Long auricles
- Rolled vernation
- Awns present on seed



### Orchardgrass

- Blue, emerald tint (even early)
- Flat at the base of stem – folded in whorl
- Folded vernation
- No auricles, but long ligule



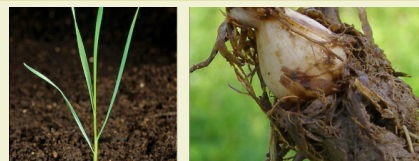
### Tall Fescue

- Wider, thick leaves – prominent veining
- Rolled vernation
- Short, but hairy auricle



### Timothy

- Corm just above the roots
- Top leaf twisted clockwise
- Rolled vernation



### Bromegrass

- M or W shaped “wrinkle” on leaf
- Usually start 2 leaves out of base
- No real auricles or ligules
- Rolled vernation



## About The Corner Post

The Corner Post is a periodic email series with timely forage tips from the agronomic experts at Forage First and La Crosse Seed. If you have a question you'd like us to answer, contact us: [info@laxseed.com](mailto:info@laxseed.com) or 800.356.7333