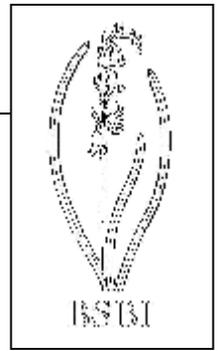


Plant Crib



GLYCERIA

Identification of *Glyceria* R. Br. species is sometimes avoided because they look difficult, but they are quite simple to identify and should give few problems. The illustrations can be used on their own, or with the key in Stace's *New Flora*.

A common mistake made by those unfamiliar with the genus is to confuse the palea teeth which project beyond the lemma in most species for the sharp teeth on the lemma of *G. declinata*. This is easily avoided by dissecting a floret and separating out the lemma. The best character for picking out the hybrids is to look for plants with spikelets which do not disarticulate.

Jizz characters to help pick out the species in the field are as follows, though they are not diagnostic and must be checked against inflorescence characters:

G. maxima (Hartm.) Holmb.: Robust, c. 1-2.5 m tall (usually less than 1 m in other species)

G. fluitans (L.) R. Br.: Inflorescence appearing very narrow and whip-like (others have much branched inflorescences)

G. notata Chevall. (*G. plicata*): Inflorescence much branched + leaves green and long

G. declinata Bréb.: Leaves short, fat and glaucous-grey, boat-shaped at tip.

Hybrids: Spikelets remaining \pm intact on the plant when old and dried, the inflorescence standing out as pale (spikelets of the species readily disarticulate at maturity). The commonest hybrid is *G. \times pedicellata* (*G. fluitans* \times *G. notata*). *G. fluitans* \times *G. declinata* also occurs but is rarely recorded.

Authors K. J. Adams & T. C. G. Rich, 1987, updated 1997.

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