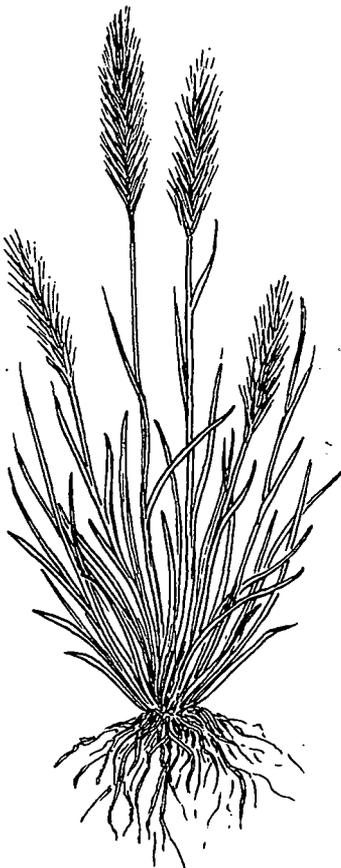


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## Meadow Barley

(*Hordeum brachyantherum*)  
(formerly called *Hordeum nodosom*)

Where does it grow? Only in moist places, such as borrow pits along high-ways, swales in irrigated pastures and hay fields, and seepy places around springs. It is found in every Oregon county.



Is it important? Not very, because wet places are usually small. Stock of all kinds like this wild barley. Only trouble is that it heads out pretty early and as soon as it is completely headed out the stock seem to like other things a lot better. It yields well and does no real harm.

What does it look like? It is a tall, erect grass that grows in somewhat compact or narrow bunches. Stems are quite leafy. Heads are narrow and resemble timothy a little but are narrower and a little bristly in appearance. Heads appear in the spring long before timothy heads.

### Description:

Length of life--Long-lived perennial.

Height--Usually 3 feet to 3 1/2 feet.

Meadow barley is a wet land plant (1/8 x). Type of grass--Bunch.

Method of spread--Seeds.

Leaves--Narrow, rather short, taper to tip, are mainly along the tall stems. A little rough feeling if you hold the tip with one hand and draw thumb and finger downward from tip to base.

Heads--Very narrow with numerous rough, short beards. Several heads on each plant. They point straight upwards, and nod only a little, even when ripe.

Like other wild barleys, the heads break up when mature instead of having the seeds drop off, as is the case with wheatgrasses. Head is very compact, so it's hard to distinguish the individual groups of seeds on the spikelets.

Does it look like anything else? Resembles meadow foxtail a little and both head out very early. Leaves of the latter are wider and shorter, the seeds drop off from the head and are very light and flat. The meadow foxtail has wider clumps and more basal leaves. It resembles timothy slightly but timothy seeds are small and nearly round, whereas meadow barley seeds are long and bearded.



Typical wet place where meadow barley grows.