Mannagrass
(Glyceria elata)

Where does it grow? In moist sites throughout Oregon. It does not occur in heavy stands, but is widely scattered from low to high elevations along streams and in the edges of marshes. Mannagrass is tolerant of shade and often grows in seeps and boggy places under stands of aspen and coniferous timber. There are several mannagrasses, most of them water loving. Tall mannagrass is described here.

Mannagrass is a tall, tufted perennial (1/10 x).

Mannagrass has a wide open head with drooping branches. (1 x).

Is it important? This grass provides succulent feed eaten by all classes of livestock, but seldom furnishes a large part of the grazing animals* diet. Mannagrass is grazed chiefly in the late summer because in the spring the places where it grows may be under water.

What does it look like? It is a tall, tufted perennial. The flower heads or panicles are loosely branched and drooping. The flower clusters or spikelets have from three to seven individual flowers. The outer glume or "chaff" on the seed has prominent ribs or "nerves" running lengthwise. If, in a swampy area, you see a real tall grass with a very loose open head with drooping flower clusters, it's pretty likely to be managrass.
Description:

Length of life -- Perennial.

Height -- Usually about 4 feet tall or more, up to 6 feet.

Bunch or sod -- Bunch with short rhizomes.

Growth period -- Late spring and summer, because of wet habitat.

How does it spread? -- Principally by seed and some by short rhizomes.

Leaves -- Flat, erect, up to 12 inches long, harsh above and smooth beneath.

Seeds -- Small, about 1/16 inch long, and covered with bracts that have prominent ribs.

Other names -- Tall mannagrass, nerved mannagrass, and tall meadowgrass. Sometimes lumped with other wet land grasses and called "Swampgrass."

Does it look like anything else? Might be confused with bluegrasses except that heads are more drooping and leaf blades flatter and sharper-pointed in mannagrass. Grows in swamps and edges of ponds and other places too wet for most grasses.

Mannagrass grows in seepy places such as this.