

Poa palustris L., FOWL BLUE STEM, FOWL MEADOW GRASS. Perennial herb, often stolon-bearing, fibrous-rooted, 1–several-stemmed at base (from stolon), somewhat tufted, ascending often with nodding, wispy inflorescence, in range to 40 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, glabrous. **Stems (culms):** cylindrical to slightly compressed. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; prophyll membranous, to 15 mm long, 2-keeled with infolded margins, with spreading to backward-curved teeth along keels; sheath closed for 1/10–1/5 length, keeled to somewhat compressed, in range glabrous, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule membranous, acute to obtuse, (0.5–)1–3 mm long, milky translucent, continuous with sheath margins, minutely toothed; collar often wavy on margin; blade to 200 × 1.5–6 mm, initially folded becoming flat, minutely scabrous on margins, prow-shaped at tip, parallel-veined with midrib somewhat keeled above midblade on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal, open panicles, panicle ± narrowly pyramidal, in range to 160 mm long, having a cluster of lateral branches widely spaced along rachis except approaching tip, nodes alternate with ± 5 branches at each node in widely spreading to slightly recurved pseudowhorls, spikelets mostly absent on each lateral branch nearly to midpoint, spikelet stalked, with 2–5 florets, bracteate, lacking awns; axes slender, wiry and flexible, often striped green and white, scabrous, rachis initially compressed aging cylindrical, glabrous, with yellowish axillary pulvinus for each lateral branch and a swelling beneath each spikelet; stalk of spikelet to 5 mm long. **Spikelet:** ovoid compressed side-to-side, 3–5 mm long, breaking above glumes and between florets; **glumes** 2, subequal, acute, 2–3 mm long, 1-veined or 3-veined (especially upper glume), keeled, in range mostly smooth; rachilla segments < 1 mm long; **lemma** 3.5–5 mm long, keeled, 5-veined, smooth or sparsely minutely scabrous along veins, in range lacking villous hairs at base; **palea** ± = lemma, membranous, 2-keeled, scabrous. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, ca. 0.6 mm long; **stamens** 3, free; anthers dithecal, 0.8–1.2 mm long, longitudinally dehiscent; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, colorless, with stigmatic hairs most of length. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis).

Naturalized. Perennial herb collected in range by Peter Raven and David Verity (1960) growing in deep shade of a canyon bottom west of Seminole Hot Springs. *Poa palustris* produces stolons, from which plantlets arise. Plants collected in range did not appear to have villous hairs at the base of the lemma, which is a diagnostic character for species of *Poa*.

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