

FAMILY POACEAE

Herbs

Stems (culms) round, often with hollow internodes and swollen nodes

Leaves alternate

Leaves simple

Leaves differentiated into a lamina, sheath, and ligule

The sheath is split

Flowers bisexual or unisexual, minute

A flower plus two subtending bracts forms a spikelet

Spikelets are organized into spikes

Flowers actinomorphic

Calyx absent

Corolla absent

Androecium of [2] 3 [6] stamens

Gynoecium of 3 united carpels

Ovary superior

Fruit a caryopsis or grain

Some Common Names: Bamboo, Pampas Grass, Bluestem, Bermuda Grass

Some Important Plants: Wheat, Rye, Barley, Rice, Sorghum, Maize, Sugar Cane

	Primitive	Advanced
Sepals		
None		x
Petals		
None		x
Stamens		
Usually 3		x
Separate	x	
Pistil		
1 pistil		x
3 united carpels		x
Ovary superior	x	
Symmetry		
Actinomorphic	x	