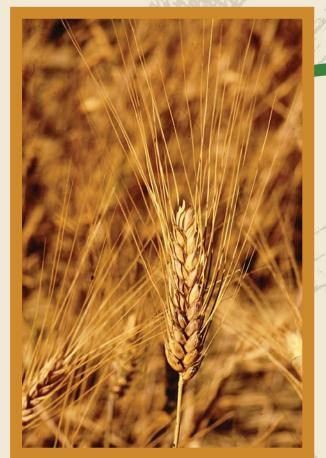
GRASS FAMILY ALBUM



Robert Soreng @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS

GRAMINEAE OR POACEAE

The World's Breadbasket

While not the largest in terms of species, for humans the grass family is undoubtably the most important. From the contents of our morning cereal bowl and the biofuels in our cars, to an afternoon of golf, few of us will pass a single day without eating or using

grass products. As a group, grasses both wild and cultivated constitute the largest amount of earth's biomass

and supply the majority of calories to consumers. Grasses also feed our need for beauty with their graceful forms that sway in the wind.

The lack of showy flowers in grasses belies their amazing diversity and complexity. Grasses are pollinated by wind, and their individual flowers

are generally quite small and highly modified—the familiar showy petals and sepals are noticeably absent. Instead, the

grasses invest energy in producing huge amounts of airborne pollen, much to the misery of allergy sufferers each year.



Robert Soreng @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS

