Common windgrass
*Apera spica-venti* L.

**Life cycle**
- Erect winter annual annual.

**Leaves**
- Leaves are rolled in the bud, smooth and very narrow. Leaf sheaths are hairless and smooth. Margins of ligules are continuous with the sheath.

**Ligule**
- Seedlings have a short, pointed membranous ligule that becomes somewhat torn, toothed or jagged with maturity.

**Stems**
- Erect, smooth, slender stems can be up to 1.5 feet tall. Produces several tillers.

**Flowers and fruit**
- The seedhead is a long, open panicle. Reddish-purple spikelets are compressed and one-seeded. Seeds are tipped with a prominent straight awn. Seeds are wind dispersed and often mature before crop harvest.

**Reproduction**
- Seeds.

*Poaceae (Grass family)*