

***Lolium species**

Commonly: Ryegrass

Vascular Plant Family: Poaceae

Flowers spring to early summer

*Lolium species are upright grasses to 75cm tall and can be annual or perennial. They are native to southern Europe and south-west Asia. They all have a membranous ligule which is cut off squarely.



The next inflorescence could be *Lolium multiflorum as it has the glumes about half the length of the flowering heads and the flowers have distinct awns.



There are three commonly found species which hybridise with each other. They are *Lolium multiflorum, Italian Ryegrass; *Lolium perenne, Perennial Ryegrass and *Lolium rigidum, Annual Ryegrass. They are distinguished in the length of the glumes supporting the flowering heads and if the flowers have awns.

The photograph below could be *Lolium perenne as the glumes are less than three quarters of the length of the flowering heads and the flowers have no awns.



As both these plants were growing together it is possible that they are hybrids between two species.

*Indicates it is a weed