

*Festuca myuros* L., FOXTAIL FESCUE, RATTAIL FESCUE, RATTAIL SIXWEEKS GRASS. Annual, fibrous-rooted, 1–several-stemmed at base, erect, 20–55(–70) cm tall; shoots essentially glabrous. **Stems (culms):** cylindric, slender, < 1 mm diameter, tough, whitish, glabrous. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; sheath open, with several conspicuously raised veins, glabrous, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule truncate,  $\pm$  0.2–0.3 mm long, minutely and jaggedly ciliate, projecting upward on 1 or both surfaces; blade linear, 25–150  $\times$  ca. 1 mm, with inrolled margins (flat), parallel-veined, upper surface inconspicuously puberulent. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal racemes or panicles, panicle 40–150(–250) mm long, of alternate distichous (strongly 2-ranked), ascending, sessile or short-stalked, overlapping, awned spikelets, spikelet with 3–4(–6) florets having terminal floret commonly sterile, bracteate, awned; axes slender and 3-angled, short-scabrous along edges. **Spikelet:** ellipsoid and somewhat compressed, 5.5–11(–23) mm long, breaking above glumes and between florets; rachilla strongly flattened with internodes ca. 1 mm long, minutely scabrous; **glumes** 2, unequal, narrowly lanceolate to lanceolate, 0.7–2 mm long (lower glume) and 2.5–5.5 mm long (upper glume), < the lowest lemma, membranous on margins, glabrous; **lemma** awned, narrowly lanceolate, 4.5–7 mm long, outer surface minutely scabrous, glabrous (sometimes long-ciliate on margins approaching tip), obscurely 5-veined, the awn terminal, straight, 5–16 mm long, light-colored; **palea** flat with infolded margins, 4.5–5.5(–6) mm long, membranous with 2 green veins, veins minutely toothed approaching tip and extended as 2 minute points. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, acute, 0.5 mm long, fringed or with a short acute lobe at base, translucent; **stamens** 1, free, included (partially exerted); filament threadlike, 2 mm long, translucent; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, linear, 0.4 mm long, purplish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pinkish; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, compressed-obovoid, 0.6–0.8 mm long, glossy greenish white, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, included, 1 mm long; stigmas translucent. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), dispersed tightly enclosed in awned floret with persistent rachilla segment, sometimes floret also dispersed retaining a terminal sterile floret; achene narrowly fusiform, 3–5  $\times$  0.4–0.5 mm, with deep longitudinal groove next to and typically trapping palea, glabrous; lemma to 7 mm long, minutely scabrous base to tip or mostly above midpoint, sometimes ciliate with hairs projected and visible on floret along groove, the awn  $\pm$  straight to slightly curved, never twisted. Early February–early May.

Naturalized. Winter and spring annual extremely common and abundant throughout range in disturbed sites and along roadside and trails, occurring wherever grasses may become established. *Festuca myuros*, also treated as a species of *Vulpia*, is a slender grass typically appearing mostly glabrous. Within range can be found individuals with glabrous lemmas (formerly var. *myuros*) and with long hair at the tips of lemmas (formerly var. *hirsuta*), but on all other features the forms are essentially indistinguishable.

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