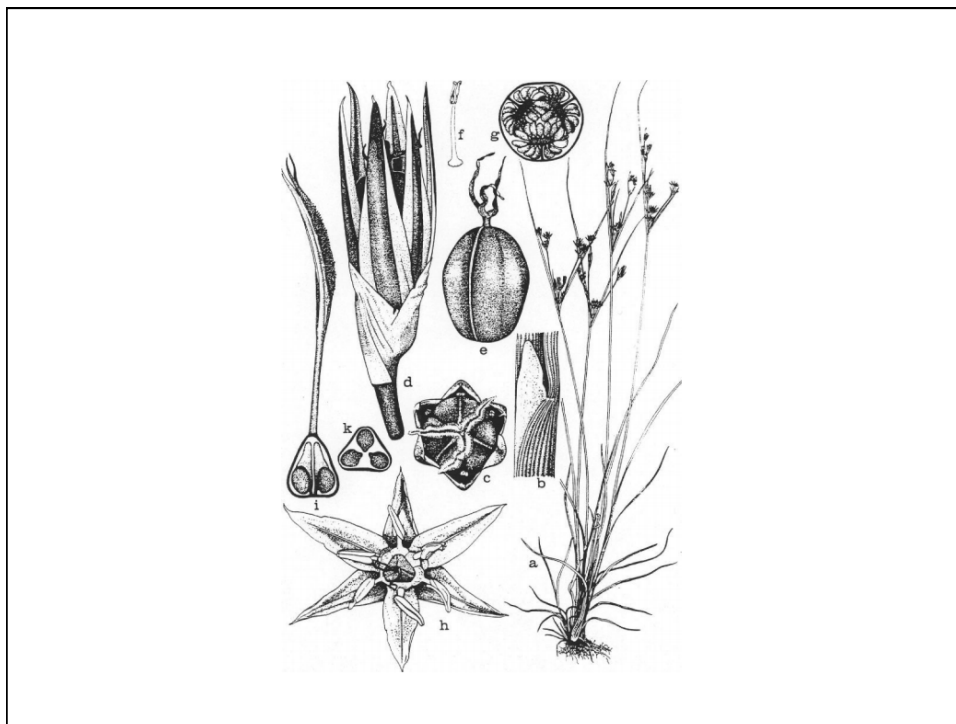


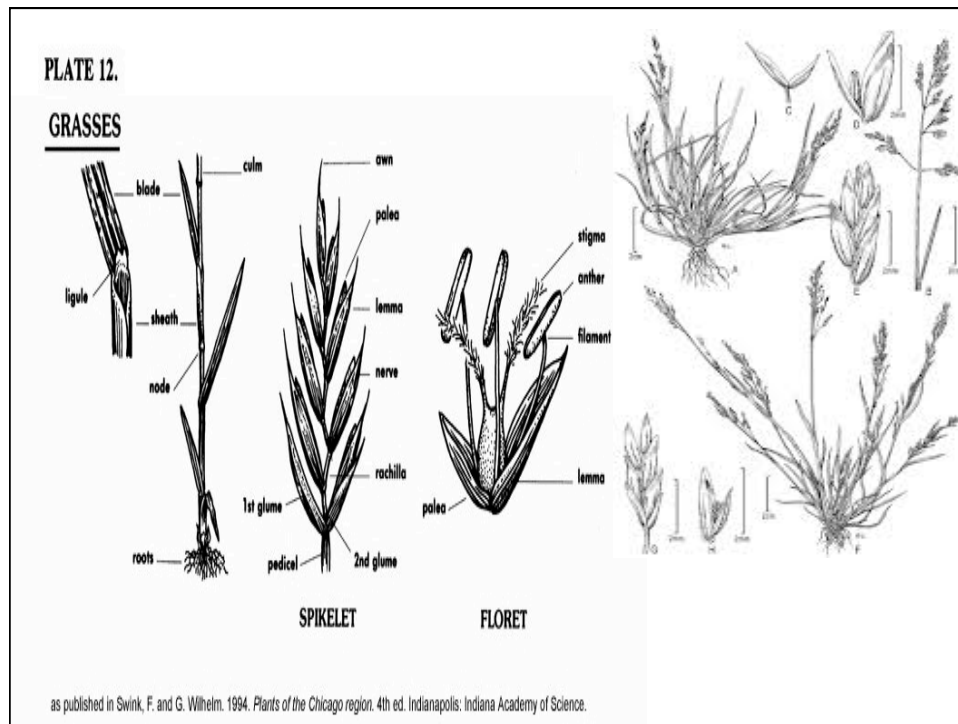
### Cyperaceae Family Characteristics

- Family of monocotyledonous **graminoids**.
- Large family with ~ 5000 species in about 100 genera.
- perennial herbs (in Arctic).
- May be found growing in almost all environments, many are associated with **wetlands**, or with poor soils.
- Growth forms: have a **superficial resemblance to grasses**, however, they are **not closely related** and differ in many characteristics, particularly in the structure of the inflorescence.
- **Leaves**: veins parallel, spirally arranged in three ranks (grasses have alternate leaves forming two ranks).
- **Stems**: Unjointed and triangular cross-section (trigonus; with occasional exceptions), with solid pith throughout.
- **Roots** fibrous, principally adventitious.
- **Flowers**: small; unisexual, or bisexual; plants monoecious, or dioecious, or bisexual.
- **Fruit** sessile; dry; an **achene**; ovoid, or obovate, or oblong. Achenes lenticular, or trigonus, or subterete. Seeds 1.
- **Identification** often **difficult** for all but the most distinctive species; usually requires mature fruit.
- In **Alaska** and **Yukon**, genera include Carex, Eriophorum, Scirpus, Kobresia, and Eleocharis.



## Jucaceae family characteristic

- Relatively world wide
- **Growth forms:** grassy
- **Leaves:** sometime basal or reduced to sheaths, no ligule, or may have auricles
- **Flowers:** small 3-merous. not in true spikes, but ve clustered in some species.
- **Fruits:** dry capsule



## Poaceae – Gramineae (Grass Family)

- Worldwide distribution and the most dominant and economically important family of flowering plants. Wheat, rice, corn, oats, sugar cane, bamboo, barley, and millet. This family provides food for the whole world, and shelter and habitat for a large portion of it. Grasses are found in all habitats from the arctic to Antarctica.
- Annual or (in Alaska, mostly) perennial herbs. Fibrous roots and/or rhizomes, round hollow stems with nodes, linear leaves subtended by sheaths which wrap around the stem below the leaf blade. A ligule is found at the leaf-sheath junction. The flowers are reduced to florets which are packaged into spikelets and arranged in a panicle or spike. There is a lot of diversity in floret and spikelet morphology and most of grass taxonomy is based on this, asking the student to learn a whole new vocabulary. Identification requires patience, a dissecting scope, and good keys!
- Common in our area: *Trisetum* (Oatgrass), *Poa* (Blue Grass), *Calamagrostis* (Bluejoint), *Festuca* (Fescue), *Deschampsia* (Hairgrass), *Agropyron*, *Arctagrostis*, and several more.