



**Caryopsis:** small, dry fruit with a thin wall surrounding and fused to the seed. This is the fruit of the grass family. It is indehiscent at maturity. Grass 'seeds' are really fruits.

When grasses have finished flowering, it is said they have gone to seed. Actually they have gone to fruit. Since the wall of the fruit is fused to the seed, they are almost one and the same. The arrow indicates an individual caryopsis on this picture of bottlebrush grass (*Elymus hystrix*). Grass flowers and fruit often have hairs or awns associated with them. Here each fruit ends in a long awn (the long, pointy thing).



Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) has a fluffy look when in fruit, due to hairs.



Some grasses like miscanthus (*Miscanthus sinensis*) have so many hairs, it almost hides the fruit.

