Orchardgrass
*Dactylis glomerata*

The stem of orchardgrass is nearly flat at the base. It has a tall ligule but no auricles.

**Description**
Perennial bunchgrass. Leaves have bluish green color compared to tall fescue. Leaf veins are much less prominent compared to tall fescue. Grows 2 to 4 feet tall in seed head stage, stems are flattened at the base. Leaves emerge from stem base folded.

**Uses**
Hay, pasture.

**Advantages**
High quality and high yields, more likely to get summer cuttings. Palatable to livestock, in high demand for hay. Well suited for use in mixtures with alfalfa and red clover.

**Disadvantages**
Seed heads in many varieties can appear in late April, which is a difficult time to get hay cured without rain damage. Stands become clumpy with age and have a short life (usually less than five years). Not tolerant of close cutting or continuous close grazing. Susceptible to leaf diseases.

**Seeding**
Rate: 10-15 lb/a
Depth: ¼-½ in
Primary Date: Aug 15-Oct 1
Secondary Date: Feb 1-Apr 15

**Harvest**
First harvest: May 1-20
Annual yield: 2-4 tons dry matter/a