

## Spotlight on Species – Kentucky bluegrass (Ch 6 pg 125)

### *Poa pratensis*

- Perhaps the most abundant grass in Ohio
- Important not so much because of its quality, but because of its widespread abundance



### ID

- Leaf veins
- Boat tips



### Use

- One of the most hardy grasses, tolerant of low fertility
- Little growth during summer (drought adaptation)
- shade tolerant

### Agronomy

- small seeds – typical sowing rate alone would be 6-8 lb/acre (rarely sown alone, a component of a mixture)
- invasive – usually appears once the sown species are depleted
- vigorous stolon growth; sod-forming species
- moderate quality

### Common varieties

- Many turf varieties (which should be avoided) - relatively few forage varieties
- old varieties: Kenblue, Park, and Troy
- new varieties: Sidekick

### Establishment

- extremely small seed: 0.2 g / 1000 seed, it has very slow establishment
- sowing rate 2-4 lb/ac in mixtures (pure sowing is not recommended)
- can be spring (April) or fall (August) planted, ideally sown with a Brillouin seeder, but can be no-till planted