



HELICTOTRICHON / ARRHENATHERUM ELATIUS

The similarity in jizz may cause confusion between *Helictotrichon* species and *Arrhenatherum elatius*. *Arrhenatherum* has shorter 7-11 mm spikelets (10-28 mm in *Helictotrichon*), mostly 2-flowered and the lower male, and an awn arising about 1/3 of the way up the lemma (awned at the middle or above in *Helictotrichon*).

Two species of *Helictotrichon* may also be confused, though they are quite distinct. The lower sheaths of *H. pubescens* are sometimes very sparsely-hairy, but plants can always be separated from *H. pratense* in floral and other characters.

Helictotrichon pratense (L.) Besser: Leaves stiff, often spiralled, glaucous on upper surface, often flat, entirely glabrous but very rough on upper surface, smooth below; lower sheath glabrous (rarely sparsely hairy); panicle with 1-2 branches at lowest rachis node; spikelets 3-6(-8) flowered.

Helictotrichon pubescens (Huds.) Pilg.: Leaves softer, usually hairy, usually folded; lower sheath hairy; panicle with 3-4 branches at lowest rachis node; spikelets 2-3(-4) flowered.