

Field Guide to Common Colorado Major Grass Groups (Tribes)

**START
HERE**

CAUTION: Tribes used here are as treated by A.S. Hitchcock in the early 20th century. They DO NOT fully correspond to modern tribe categories and as such are not phylo-genetically natural in all cases. The older system is used here because it can be used with field-observable characters.

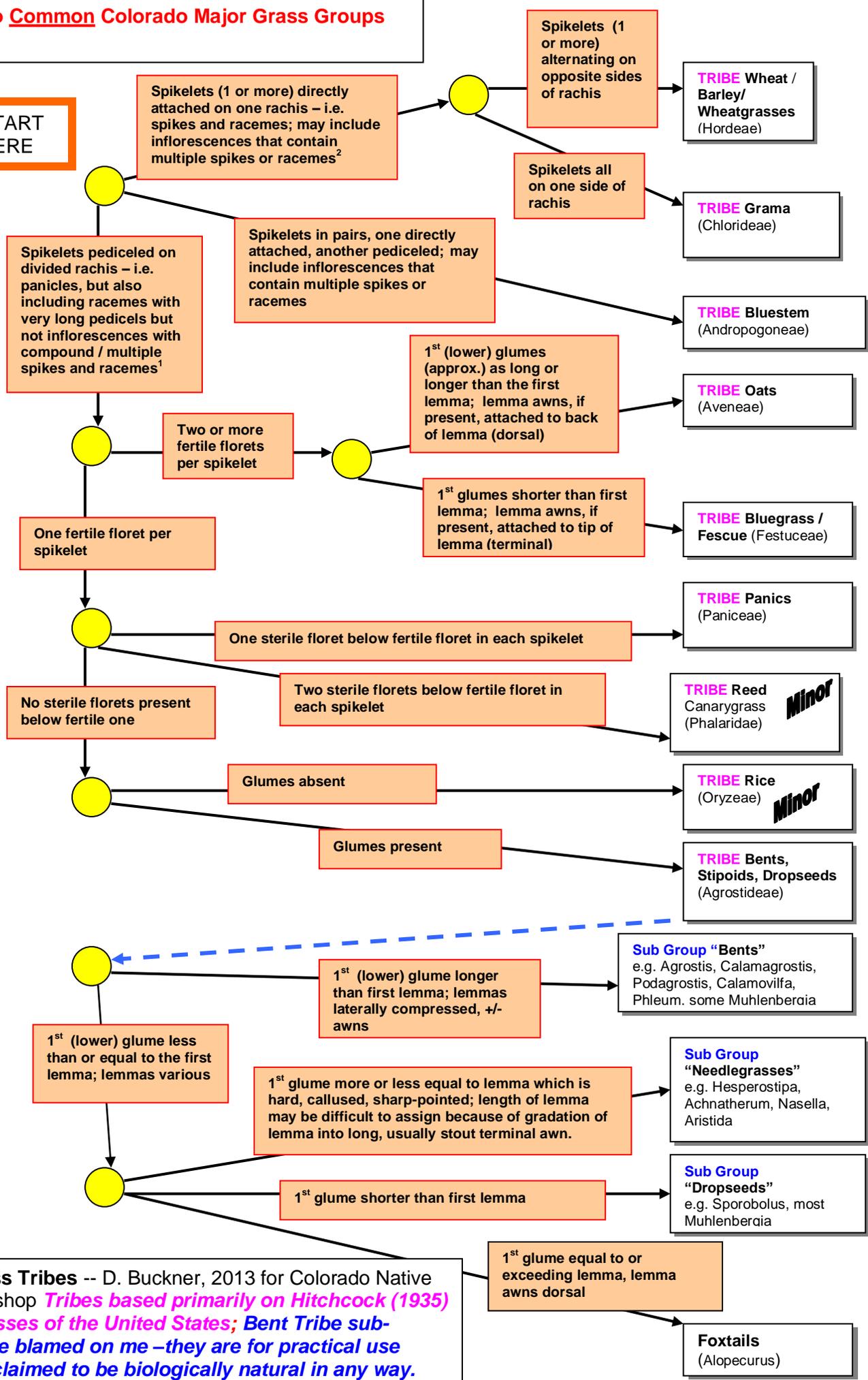
Note these are Colorado tribes only (not worldwide).

Because of the simplicity here, exceptions do occur – less common grasses may not work out.

The intention of this contribution is to assist novices as they begin to enjoy grasses, not to satisfy full agrostologic propriety.

Serious students should apply themselves to understanding and use of R. Shaw (2008) *Grasses of Colorado*.

¹Note that besides the presence of compound spikes in genera such as *Andropogon*, the presence elsewhere of abbreviated panicle development (such as in *Setaria*) may be confusing.



Visual Key to Grass Tribes -- D. Buckner, 2013 for Colorado Native Plant Society Workshop *Tribes based primarily on Hitchcock (1935) Manual of the Grasses of the United States; Bent Tribe sub-groups can only be blamed on me – they are for practical use only, and are not claimed to be biologically natural in any way.*