

ARISTIDA NECOPINA Shinnery
False Arrow-feather

FAMILY: Gramineae

SYNONYMS: *Aristida intermedia* Scribner & Ball (misapplied, Voss 1972). *Aristida longespica* Poiret var. *geniculata* (Raf.) Fern.

HABIT: Annual, stems to 60 cm, branching from the base; flowering and fruiting Sept-Oct.

SIMILAR SPECIES: May be confused with *Aristida longespica* and *A. purpurascens* that grow in similar habitats. *Aristida necopina* is distinguished from *A. longespica* by the lengths of its awns and from *A. purpurascens* by its annual habit and glabrous sheaths.

TOTAL RANGE: Southern MI to NE, s. to FL and TX.

STATE RANGE: Known from post-1980 collections from the Oak Openings of Lucas County.

HABITAT: In full sun in sand barrens and other exposed situations.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by taller species as habitat stabilizes.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably very good since it seems to thrive in disturbed areas.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens that illustrate annual habit.

COMMENTS: This species has been overlooked in the Ohio flora because of its late blooming date and its similarity to other triple-awn grasses. It should be sought in appropriate habitats in northwest Ohio, but it probably is restricted to the Oak Openings region.

The taxonomy and nomenclature of *Aristida* remains unstable. The status and name of this taxon is subject to change. The name "*necopina*" is used here pending future research into this complex of closely-related taxa.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Voss, E.G. 1972. Michigan flora, Part I, Gymnosperms and monocots. Cranbrook Inst. of Sci. Bull. 55, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 488 p.



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