

ARISTIDA PURPURASCENS Poir
Purple Triple-awned Grass

FAMILY: Gramineae (Poaceae)

HABIT: Herbaceous caespitose perennial, 3-10 dm.; flowering August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The genus *Aristida* is distinctive. This species is somewhat similar to other members of the genus; however, *A. purpurascens* is notably taller and has wider leaves than other species.

TOTAL RANGE: FL to TX, n. to MA, and in the interior n. to s. Ont., s. MI, WI, MO, and e. KS.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Adams, Erie, Fulton, Henry, Holmes, Jackson, Lucas, and Pike counties. There are pre-1980 records from 5 counties: Fairfield, Hamilton, Pickaway, Ross, and Wood.

HABITAT: Usually in full sun on dry, sparsely vegetated sandy soils; barrens, prairies, glades, and meadows.

HAZARDS: Subject to grazing before the maturation of the hard-pointed fruits. Also, overshadowing by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Good in the Oak Openings region of northwest Ohio and barrens of Adams County; fair elsewhere.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material is needed for identification. Collect the underground parts and note density of basal tufts.

COMMENTS: *Aristida purpurescens* is rather distinctive grass and its distribution is likely close to being known in the state. Populations may be discovered in Oak Openings, Adams County and southcentral Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Dore, W.G. and J. McNeill. 1980. Grasses of Ontario. Agric. Canada Monograph 26. 566 p.

Hitchcock, A.S. 1924. The North American species of *Aristida*. Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb. 22: 517-586. 1951. Manual of grasses of the United States. Ed. 2, rev. by A. Chase. U.S. Dep. Agr. Misc. Publ. 200. 1051 p.

Yatskievych, G. 1999. Steyermark's Flora of Missouri, Volume 1. The Missouri Botanical Garden Press, St. Louis, Missouri. 991 p.



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