

ERIOPHORUM GRACILE W. D. J. Koch
Slender Cottongrass

FAMILY: Cyperaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, fertile culms 2-6 dm.; fruiting mid May-early June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The genus is very distinctive and unlikely to be misidentified. *E. gracile* can be distinguished from other Ohio cotton-grasses by the presence of only one, rather than two or more, prominent bracts. It also is more delicate than other species in the genus and has an earlier anthesis.

TOTAL RANGE: Lab. to AK, s. to DE, PA, OH, IL, MN, NE, and CA; also in Eurasia.

STATE RANGE: FRANKLIN CO.: bog at Baumgardner's Pond, Jackson Twp., 17 May 1931, R.B. Gordon & E.S. Thomas (OS). LICKING CO.: Buckeye Lake, 30 May 1898, W.A. Kellerman (OS); bog island, Buckeye Lake, Sect. 13, Union Twp., 23 June 1904, B. Wagoner (Muskingum College).

HABITAT: Wet, peaty situations; bogs, lake margins; found in deeper waters than other Ohio species of cotton-grass.

HAZARDS: Changes in water level; successional changes.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete mature specimens.

COMMENTS: The habitat for this species has been largely destroyed or severely altered. Since it blooms relatively early, however, it might have been overlooked. It should be sought in suitable habitats in unglaciated Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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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