

ERIOPHORUM VIRIDICARINATUM (Engelm.) Fernald
Green Cottongrass

FAMILY: Cyperaceae

HABIT: Tufted, herbaceous perennial, fertile culms 2-9 dm.; fruiting June-mid July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This genus is very distinctive and unlikely to be misidentified. *E. viridicarinatum* can be distinguished from *E. gracile* by the presence of 2 or more prominent bracts. *E. viridicarinatum* has black to greenish-black pistillate scales with one prominent nerve, while *E. virginicum* has brown to red-brown pistillate scales with 3-5 evident nerves.

TOTAL RANGE: Nfld. to B.C., s. to CT, n. OH, n. IN, MN, CO, and WA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula, Champaign, Geauga, Logan, Portage, Stark, and Summit counties. Pre-1980 records are from Cuyahoga, Erie, Lake, Licking, and Stark counties.

HABITAT: Open, moist situations, usually in alkaline substrates; fens, peaty meadows, lake margins.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: A conspicuous species that is not likely to be overlooked. Its state range may be accurately known.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.

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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