

LEERSIA LENTICULARIS Michx.
Catchfly Grass

FAMILY: Poaceae

SYNONYMS: *Homalocenchrus lenticularis* (Michx.) Kuntze

HABIT: Herbaceous, rhizomatous perennial to 1.3 m, flowering August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: A very distinctive species unlikely to be confused with anything else when mature. Somewhat resembles the common *Leersia oryzoides* (L.) Sw., but easily distinguished by its larger, closely imbricated spikelets which are less than twice as long as wide.

TOTAL RANGE: Swamps and streambanks on the coastal plain from se. VA to FL, and TX, n. in the Mississippi Valley to MN and WI.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are known from Auglaize, Mercer, and Van Wert counties.

HABITAT: River oxbows under open floodplain woods in seasonally saturated soils.

HAZARDS: Drainage of the habitat, conversion of habitat to agricultural lands.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material is needed for identification. A portion of the rhizome should be included in the collection.

COMMENTS: *L. lenticularis* is attributed to s. Ohio by Fernald (1950), however, no specimen to validate this report can be located. Also, none of literature concerning Ohio floristics lists this species as occurring in our flora. This is apparently the only known populations in the Great Lakes drainage, and *L. lenticularis* should be sought in other tributaries of the Maumee River in western Ohio. It is known to be confined to riparian areas along the St. Mary's river in extreme western Ohio. It was discovered in 1991.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Fernald, Merritt L. 1950. Gray's manual of botany. 8th Ed. American Book Co., New York, New York. 1632 p.

McCormac, James S. 1993. First record of *Leersia lenticularis* Michx. in the Great Lakes Drainage. *Castanea* 58: 54-58.

Pyrah, G.L. 1969. Taxonomic and distributional studies in *Leersia* (Graminaea). *Iowa State Journal of Science*, Vol. 44, No. 2. pp. 215-270.



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