PANICUM COMMONSIANUM Ashe Commons' Panic-grass

FAMILY: Poaceae.

- Synonyms: Panicum columbianum Scrib. var. commonsianum (Ashe) McNeill & Dore;
 Dichanthelium commonsianum (Ashe) Freckman; Dichanthelium ovale (Elliott) Gould & Clark var. addisonii (Nash) Gould and Clark
- HABIT: Perennial, in tussocks; culms erect or ascending, 2-6 dm high; flowering and fruiting May-July; autumnal phase August-November.
- SIMILAR SPECIES: It is similar to other species in the genus *Panicum*. Critical examination is required for accurate identification.
- TOTAL RANGE: Coastal plain from se. MA to FL; locally inland from nw. PA to n. IL, MI, e. MN, OH, and WI.
- STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 record from Lucas County. Pre-1980 record is from Erie County.

HABITAT: Dry, open prairies and sparsely vegetated sand barrens.

HAZARDS: Overshading by other species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This species is easily overlooked and/or misidentified. It may be more frequent in Ohio than current records indicate. It should be sought in the Oak Openings region and other sandy, open habitats in northern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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- Hitchcock, A.S. 1951. Manual of grasses of the United States. Ed. 2, rev. by A. Chase, U.S. Dep. Agr. Misc. Publ. 200. 1051 pp.
- Hitchcock, A.S. and A. Chase. 1910. The North American species of *Panicum*. Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb. 15: 396 pp.
- Voss, E.G. 1972. Michigan Flora, Part I. Gymnosperms and monocots. Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 59, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 488 pp.



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