

PANICUM LEIBERGII (Vasey) Scribn.
Leiberg's Panic-grass

FAMILY: Poaceae.

SYNONYM: *Dichanthelium leibergii* (Vasey) Freckmann

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial with winter rosettes, vernal culms sparingly caespitose, erect or geniculate below, 2-9 dm., flowering May-August; autumnal culms leaning, sparingly branching from middle or lower nodes, with blades scarcely reduced, flowering June-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The genus *Panicum* is distinctive in Ohio. It is the largest genus in the family, and species distinctions are based upon minute and technical characters. This species is most similar to *P. oligoanthos*.

TOTAL RANGE: OH and MI to Manitoba, SD, and KS; c. NY and PA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Clark, Madison, Marion, and Wood counties.

HABITAT: Prefers neutral to slightly alkaline sandy loam; found on dry to wet prairies, open woods, meadows; Dore and McNeill (1980) state that it can sometimes be found on RR embankments.

HAZARDS: Unknown, probably grazing; overshadowing by woody species due to succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but presumed good due to its generalized habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material, with underground parts and winter rosettes, is needed for identification. Note the density of basal tufts.

COMMENTS: This plant may be more frequent in Ohio than the records indicate, and may possibly be found almost anywhere in the state on neutral to slightly alkaline soil.

Dore and McNeill (1980) recognize two varieties of *P. leibergii* in Ontario, but state that farther south the two varieties appear to intergrade. The taxon is here treated as a single variable entity.

In a major revision of this group, Gould and Clark (1978) elevate the *Panicum* subgenus *Dichanthelium* to generic level. In their treatment, *P. leibergii* becomes *D. leibergii* (see Synonym). However, the species is here retained under *Panicum* pending further clarification of this extremely complex and confusing taxonomic problem.

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 p.

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