

PANICUM SPRETUM Schultes
Narrow-headed Panic-grass

FAMILY: Poaceae.

SYNONYMS: *Dichantherium acuminatum* (Sw.) Gould & Clark var. *densiflorum* (Rand & Redfield) Gould & Clark
Dichantherium spretum (Schultes) Freckman
Panicum acuminatum Sw. var. *densiflorum* (Rand & Redfield) Lelong.

HABIT: Upright, herbaceous perennial, culms to 1.2 m.; flowering and fruiting June-August and September-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Closely resembles other panic-grasses which grow in the same habitat. Identified by its ellipsoid inflorescence and tall culms.

TOTAL RANGE: Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains from Nova Scotia to FL, w. to TX; disjunct in nw. IN, and in MI, and s. Ontario.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Lucas and Summit counties.

HABITAT: A variety of moist situations, often in sand; alder thickets, edges of bogs; tolerant of moderate disturbance.

HAZARDS: Alteration of drainage patterns; maturation of habitat.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good, since this species tolerates moderate disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This species is another example of a coastal plain species disjunct in the Great Lakes region. In Ohio it probably is restricted to the Oak Openings. Apparently it has been overlooked in the past due to its close similarity to other panic-grasses which grow in the same habitat.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Gould, F.W. and C.A. Clark. 1978. *Dichantherium* (Poaceae) in the United States and Canada. Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. 65: 1088-1132.

Lelong, M.G. 1984. New combinations for *Panicum* subgenus *Panicum* and *Dichantherium* (Poaceae) of the southeastern United States. Brittonia 36: 262-273.

Voss, E.G. 1972. Michigan flora, Part 1, Gymnosperms and monocots. Cranbrook Inst. of Sci. Bull. 55, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 488 p.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 2/1990 Allison W. Cusick