

PANICUM YADKINENSE Ashe
Spotted Panic-Grass

FAMILY: Poaceae.

SYNONYM: *Dichantheium dichotomum* (L.) Gould var. *dichotomum*

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial with winter rosettes, vernal culms caespitose, erect or geniculate at base, 5-10 dm.; flowering May-July; autumnal culms erect or leaning, sparsely branching from the middle nodes with slightly reduced leaves; flowering June-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The genus *Panicum* is distinctive in Ohio. Species distinctions are based upon minute and technical characters. This species is coarser and taller than the very similar *P. dichotomum*.

TOTAL RANGE: NJ to s. IL, s. to GA and LA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Hocking, Jackson, and Scioto counties.

HABITAT: Moist soil in a variety of habitats, including rich woods, bottomlands, thickets, swamps.

HAZARDS: Unknown, but possibly grazing.

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: There are very likely more stations for this grass in southern Ohio, and it should be sought in suitable habitats. It may easily be overlooked or misidentified.

In a major revision of this group, Gould and Clark (1978) elevate the *Panicum* subgenus *Dichantheium* to generic level. In their treatment, *P. yadkinense* is submerged within *D. dichotomum* var. *dichotomum* (see Synonym). However, the taxon is here retained as *P. yadkinense* pending further clarification of this extremely complex and confusing taxonomic problem.

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.

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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.

Hitchcock, A.S. and A. Chase. 1910. The North American species of *Panicum*. Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb. 15: 396 p.

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Created: 7/1984 David Spooner, James F. Burns