

POA SALTUENSIS ssp. saltuensis Fernald & Wiegand
Pasture Bluegrass

FAMILY: Poaceae

HABIT: Tufted herbaceous perennial to 8 dm.; flowering & fruiting late May- June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Most bluegrasses are very similar and are difficult to identify without careful measurement of flower parts under the microscope. *Poa saltuensis* ssp. *saltuensis* is extremely similar to *Poa saltuensis* ssp. *languida*, also a rare Ohio plant. The two bluegrasses are separated by minute floral and vegetative characters.

TOTAL RANGE: Newfoundland to n. MI and MN, s. to PA and in the mountains of VA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There is a post-1980 record from Geauga County.

HABITAT: In full sun or semi-shade in young woods, thickets, and recently disturbed land; known to appear in woodlands following clearing or cutting; the Ohio population is on a valley wall kept open by soil slumping.

HAZARDS: Stabilization of the habitat and overgrowth by taller species.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably very good, given the species' positive response to disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete specimens with fertile culms. Count number of tufts with fertile culms.

COMMENTS: The true distribution and frequency of this species in Ohio probably is not known. It is so similar to other bluegrasses, particularly the uncommon *Poa saltuensis* ssp. *languida*, that most botanists would not be able to separate them easily. Field identification is almost impossible. *Poa saltuensis* ssp. *saltuensis* probably is rare in northern Ohio, but it should be sought more thoroughly.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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