

SPHENOPHOLIS OBTUSATA (Michx.) Scribn. Var. OBTUSATA
Prairie Wedge Grass

FAMILY: Gramineae (Poaceae)

HABIT: Herbaceous caespitose perennial, 2-10 dm.; flowering May-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species can be easily confused with other members of the genus, as well as with *Koeleria macrantha*. Variety *obtusata* differs from the frequent variety, *var. major*, by having a dense, narrow inflorescence as well as the upper glume being 2-3 times as long as the folded width. There are intermediates between the two varieties.

TOTAL RANGE: ME to B.C., s. to Mex. and the W.I.

STATE RANGE: Post-1980 records are from Logan, Jackson, Lucas, and Warren counties. There are pre-1980 records from Adams, Auglaize, Greene, Henry, Lorain, Marion, Montgomery, Ottawa, Ross and Wood counties.

STATE STATUS: 1980 to present: Threatened.

HABITAT: Very generalized; moist to dry soil of open woods, prairies, old fields, and fen meadows.

HAZARDS: Grazing; this is a very succulent forage grass. Also, overshadowing by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Good, as it does grow in a variety of habitats.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material is needed for identification. Collect the underground parts and note density of basal tufts.

COMMENTS: This grass has been collected at a variety of locations in Ohio and should be sought throughout the state. It is easily overlooked or misidentified. Erdman (1965) splits *Sphenopholis obtusata* into two varieties, the typical variety and *var. major* (Torrey) Erdman. His *var. major* is treated by other authors, such as Dore and McNeill (1980), as *S. intermedia* (Rydb.) Rydb.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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