

SACCHARUM ALOPECUROIDEUM (L.) Nuttall
Silver Plume Grass

FAMILY: Poaceae.

SYNONYMS: *Erianthus alopecuroides* (L.) Eil.

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, 1.5-3 dm.; flowering September-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This is a very distinctive grass unlikely to be confused with other Ohio species. It is very tall, and has a tight silvery panicle with long silky spikelet hairs. The spirally twisted awns directed away from the spikelet are also distinctive.

TOTAL RANGE: NJ to s. IN, s. to FL and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 record from Scioto County.

HABITAT: Sandy or rocky open woods, open ground.

HAZARDS: Unknown, possibly grazing or overshadowing as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to the ready availability of habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material is needed for identification.
Collect the underground parts.

COMMENTS: If this conspicuous grass still exists in southern Ohio, it should not be hard to relocate.

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.

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.

Stuckey, R.L. and M.L. Roberts. 1982. Monocotyledons. In: Cooperrider, T.S. (ed.). *Endangered and threatened plants of Ohio*. Ohio Biol. Surv. Biol. Notes No. 16: 27-47.

Webster, R. D. and R. B. Shaw. *Taxonomy of the native North American species of Saccharum*. Sida 16 (3): 551-580. 1995.



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