ERIOPHORUM VIRGINICUM L.
Tawny Cottongrass

FAMILY: Cyperaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, fertile culms 0.4-1.2 m.; fruiting July, August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The genus is very distinctive and unlikely to be misidentified. *E. virginicum* can be distinguished from *E. gracile* by the presence of 2 or more prominent bracts. *E. viridicarinatum* has black to greenish-black pistillate scales with one prominent nerve, while *E. virginicum* has brown to red-brown pistillate scales with 3-5 evident nerves. *E. virginicum* is the latest member of the genus to bloom in Ohio.

TOTAL RANGE: Newfoundland and Quebec to Man. and MN, s. to FL and KY.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Geauga, Licking, Portage, Richland, Stark, Summit, and Wayne counties. There are pre-1980 records from 4 other counties: Ashland, Ashtabula, Defiance, and Huron.

HABITAT: Open, moist situations, usually in acidic substrates; bogs, peaty meadows, lake margins.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: A conspicuous species that is not likely to be overlooked. Its state range may be accurately known.

SELECTED REFERENCES:
