

KOELERIA MACRANTHA (Ledeb.) Schultes
Junegrass

FAMILY: Poaceae

SYNONYMS: *Koeleria cristata* Pers.; *Koeleria cristata* (L.) Pers.; *Koeleria macrantha* (Ledeb.) Spreng. ; *Koeleria pyramidata* (Lam.) P. Beauv.

HABIT: Herbaceous caespitose perennial, 3-6 dm.; flowering June, July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This is an extremely variable species divided by some authors into varieties, the status of which is questionable. This grass is very similar to Ohio species of *Sphenopholis*, especially *S. obtusata*, differing in technical characters.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, s. in America to DE, MO, and TX; s. South America.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Lucas County. There are pre-1960 records from Erie, Greene and Ottawa counties.

HABITAT: Prairies, open woods, sandy soil; in full sun.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good. This is a vigorous and common species in the western United States, and should recover well in suitable habitats. Dore and McNeill (1980) discuss reproductive difficulties in isolated populations of this species.

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

COMMENTS: This grass should be found in more areas in northern Ohio, and it may occur in prairie areas in other parts of the state as well. When in flower it is quite obvious, but it could be overlooked at other seasons. There is much taxonomic confusion concerning the specific epithet of this plant, even as to its authorship (see Synonyms). The situation is briefly discussed by Shinnars (1956), Voss (1966), (1972), and Dore and McNeill (1980).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 2/1984 David Spooner, James F. Burns