

PANICUM BOREALE Nash  
Northern Panic-grass

FAMILY: Poaceae

SYNONYM: *Dichanthelium boreale* (Nash) Freckmann

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial with winter rosettes, vernal culms variably cespitose, erect to ascending, 2.5-7 dm.; flowering June-August; autumnal culms erect or leaning, branching from all the nodes, with slightly reduced leaves; flowering July-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The genus *Panicum* is distinctive in Ohio. Species distinctions are based upon minute and technical characters.

TOTAL RANGE: Quebec and Newfoundland to MN, s. to NJ and n. IN.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Erie, Fulton, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lucas, Portage, Ross, Summit, and Williams counties. Pre-1980 records are from Henry County.

HABITAT: Open woods, fields, shores. Usually on damp, acid (pH 5-6) soils, but it can also be found in dry woods.

HAZARDS: Unknown, but probably grazing; also, possibly overshadowing by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but presumed good due to its generalized habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material with underground parts and winter rosettes is needed for identification. Note the density of basal tufts.

COMMENTS: This northern species may exist in more locations in the state, with the greatest possibilities being in northern Ohio. It is easily overlooked or misidentified.

In a major revision of this group, Gould and Clark (1978) elevate the *Panicum* subgenus *Dichanthelium* to generic level. In their treatment, *P. boreale* becomes *D. boreale* (see Synonym). However, the species is here retained under *Panicum* pending further clarification of this extremely complex and confusing taxonomic problem.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Division of Natural Areas and Preserves  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 7/1984 David Spooner, James F. Burns