

PANICUM PRAECOCIUS Hitchc. & Chase
Early Panic-grass

FAMILY: Poaceae.

SYNONYMS: *Dichantherium acuminatum* (Swartz) Gould & Clark var. *villosum* (A. Gray) Gould and Clark

HABIT: Tufted perennial; culms slender, ascending or spreading, 1-5 dm high; flowering and fruiting May-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: It is similar to *Panicum implicatum* but differs by longer spikelets and longer acute first glume. Careful examination is required for identification.

TOTAL RANGE: MA to MN and KS, s. to FL and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Lucas County.

HABITAT: Dry open prairies, fields, and sand barrens; in sandy, well-drained soils.

HAZARDS: Overshading by other species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This species may be more frequent than current records indicate. It should be sought in the Oak Openings region and other sandy, open habitats in northern Ohio.

Gleason and Cronquist (1991) merge this species under *Panicum villosissimum*.

Fires may be important in the ecology of this species, as one of the Lucas County records was from a burned oak knoll.

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.

Gould, F.W. and C.A. Clark. 1978. *Dichantherium* (Poaceae) in the United States and Canada. Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. 65: 1088-1132.

Hitchcock, A.S. 1906. Notes on grasses. Rhodora 8: 206-212.

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 pp.

Hitchcock, A.S. and A. Chase. 1910. The North American species of *Panicum*. Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb. 15: 396 pp.

Mohlenbrock, R.H. 1973. The illustrated flora of Illinois. Grasses, *Panicum* to *Danthonia*.
Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, IL. 378 pp.



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Created: 4/1998 Richard Gardner