Walter's Barnyard-grass
Echinochloa walteri

Description

Walter's Barnyard-grass is an annual herb that may grow to 6 feet (2 meters) in height. The leaves are alternately arranged, lance-shaped, to about 1 foot (ca 30 cm) in length and about 1 inch (ca 2.5 cm) in width, usually long-hairy on the sheath portion that encloses the stem, parallel-veined, and not toothed on the margin. The flowers, appearing from August to September, are individually only a few millimeters in length and are aggregated in a branched cluster at the top of the stem. The small scales at the base of each flower have elongate needle-like projections, or awns, that give a bristly appearance to the flowering and fruiting clusters.

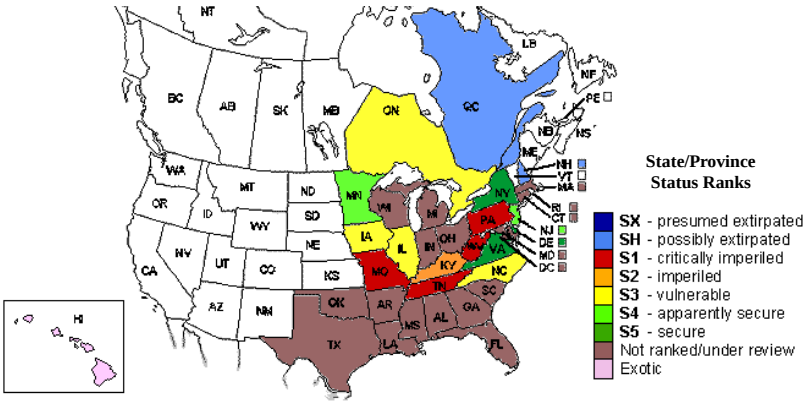
Photo source: PNHP

Distribution & Habitat

Walter's Barnyard-grass has a range throughout the eastern half of North America. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented historically only in a few southeastern counties. Walter's Barnyard-grass grows in marshes, ditches and on shorelines, including intertidal wetlands.

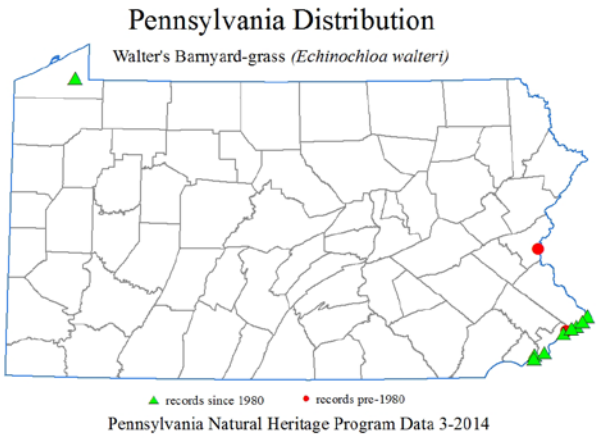
North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2014



State Status & Conservation

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) has assigned Walter's Barnyard-grass a rarity status of Endangered, based on the relatively few populations that have been documented and the restricted state range. The species does appear able to thrive in certain types of disturbed ground. The general habitat of this species has threats from exotic species, dredging and filling, and water pollution.



NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Globally Secure**; S1 –** Critically Imperiled in Pennsylvania

References

- NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at http://www.natureserve.org/explorer
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2014.
- Rhoads, A.F. and W.M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program