

Velvety Panic-grass

Dichanthelium scoparium

Description

Velvety Panic-grass is a perennial herb that may grow up to 4 feet (1.3 meters) in height. The stems are covered with short, soft, dense, spreading hairs that give the species its name. The portion of the stem just below each node or joint usually has a ring that is sticky to the touch. The leaf blades are alternately arranged, lance-shaped, with parallel veins, not toothed on the margin, and covered with the same sort of hairs as the stem. The flowers, appearing from June to October, are individually only a few millimeters in length and are arranged in clusters that are found at the top of the stem and its branches. Of the many species of panic-grass in the Pennsylvania, this one can be recognized by the velvety hairs on the stems and leaves.

Distribution & Habitat

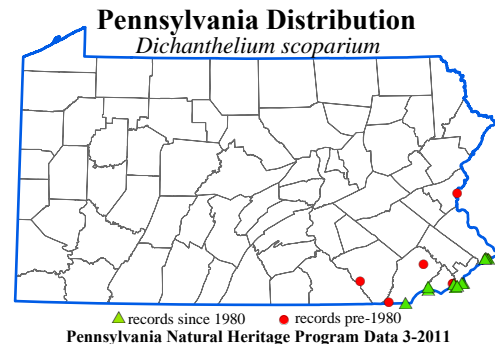
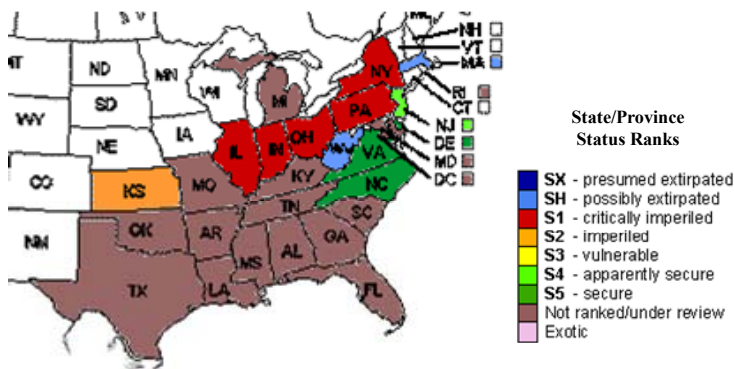
Velvety Panic-grass has a range from Massachusetts south and west into Florida and Texas. In Pennsylvania, it represents a southerly species, and has been documented in a few southeastern counties. Velvety Panic-grass grows in damp to seasonally wet clearings, abandoned fields, marshes, and disturbed ground.



Photo source: John Roemer

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2010



State Status & Conservation

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) has assigned Velvety Panic-grass a rarity status of Endangered, based on the limited number of populations documented for the species and its small state range. Recent field surveys have been successful in discovering more populations of the species, so this rarity status may be amended to reflect a lesser degree conservation significance. Some of the known populations of Velvety Panic-grass have threats from habitat loss, competition, and exotic species.

NatureServe conservation status ranks

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

References

- NatureServe. 2011. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>
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- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

