

Bog Bluegrass

Poa paludigena

Description

This delicate grass has a very slender stem, which often reclines on other vegetation or the substrate, and may grow from 1/2 to 2 feet (1.7-7 dm) in length. The leaves are alternately arranged, narrow, elongate, 1/12 of an inch (2 mm) wide, and up to 4 inches (10 cm) long. The flowers, appearing from mid May to early June, are aggregated in small spikelets that are individually less than ¼ inch (3-5 mm) long. The spikelets are remotely scattered in a terminal cluster, with the slender branches of the cluster, especially the lower ones, stiffly spreading and/or bent downward as the fruits become mature.

Distribution & Habitat

Bog bluegrass has a range primarily in the Great Lakes states and mid Atlantic states, from New York south into North Carolina and west into Minnesota and Iowa. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented historically in numerous widely scattered counties. It grows in swamps, seepy woods, and along spring-fed streamlets.

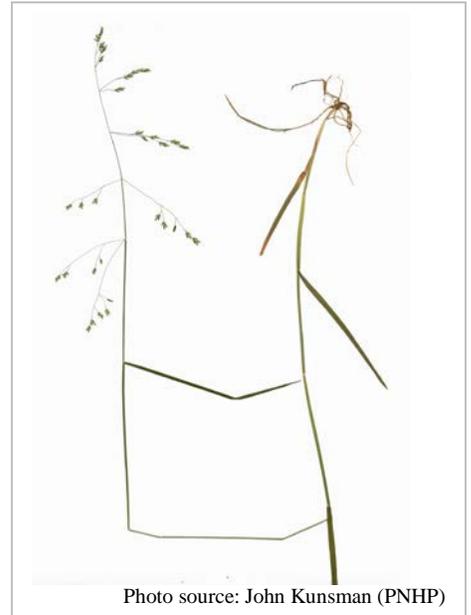
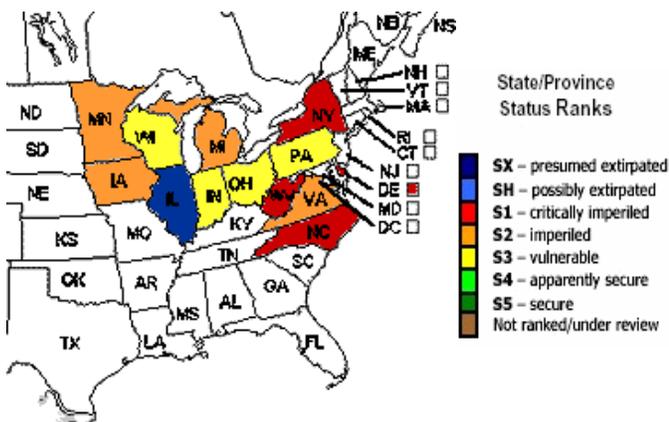


Photo source: John Kunsman (PNHP)

North American State/Province Conservation Status
Map by NatureServe 2014



Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers bog bluegrass to be a species of special concern, based on the few occurrences that have been recently confirmed and its very specialized wetland habitat. It has a PA legal rarity status of Threatened and a PABS suggested rarity status of Rare. About 30 populations are currently known from the state.

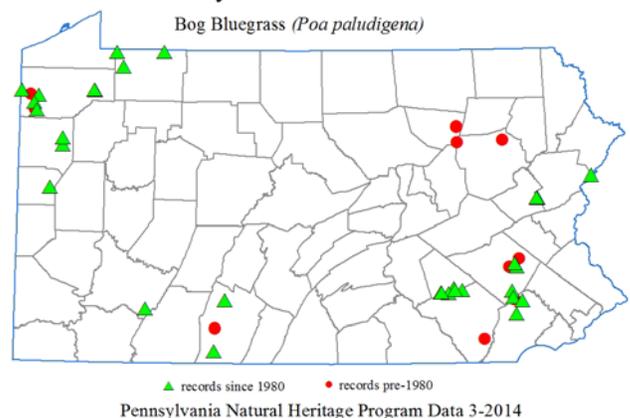
Conservation Considerations

The viability of populations of bog blue-grass and its habitat may be enhanced by creating buffers around wetlands, controlling invasive species, and protecting the natural hydrology surrounding wetlands. The areas supporting populations should be managed in a way that ensures the continuation of excellent water quality and neutral or calcareous water chemistry.

NatureServe conservation status rank

G3 – Globally vulnerable; S3 – Vulnerable in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Distribution



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Data 3-2014

References

- NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program