

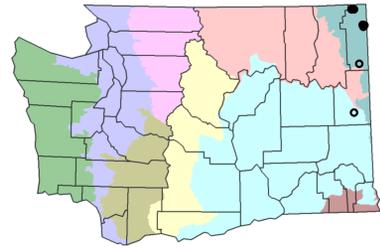
***Muhlenbergia glomerata* (Willd.) Trin.**

marsh muhly

Poaceae - grass family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S1S2



General Description: Adapted from Cronquist *et al.* (1972-94) and Flora of North America (1993+): Perennial from long, creeping, scaly rhizomes. Stems 3-12 dm, erect, unbranched or sparingly branched, hollow, slightly compressed, the internodes dull, finely hairy (sometimes sparsely so). Leaf sheaths slightly keeled, hairless to slightly roughened from short stiff hairs. Ligules 0.2-0.6 mm long, membranous, upper margin irregularly torn to fringed with hairs. Blades flat, 2-15 cm x 2-6 mm, roughened.

Floral Characteristics: Panicles 1.5-12 cm long, narrow and spikelike, somewhat lobed with densely clustered spikelets. Spikelets 1-flowered, green to purplish. Glumes nearly equal, 3-8 mm long (including the short awn), usually exceeding the lemma, narrow, 1-veined. Lemma 2-3.1 mm long, 3-nerved, hairy on the nerves and margins, tapering to a pointed tip, awnless or sometimes with a short awn. Callus bearded, the hairs 1 mm long. Anthers 0.8-1 (1.5) mm long.

Fruits: Caryopses 1-1.6 mm long. Identifiable July to August.

Identification Tips: *Muhlenbergia racemosa* is similar, but does not occur in WA. It can be distinguished by its smooth, polished internodes, lemmas that are long-hairy at the base only, and longer ligules (0.6-1.5 mm). Additionally, *M. glomerata* is confined to moister, less disturbed habitats while *M. racemosa* is found in drier, often disturbed sites.

Range: Throughout most of Canada and the northern U.S., south to NV, CO, IL, KY, and NC.

Habitat/Ecology: A facultative wetland species of stream banks, meadows, marshes, bogs, alkaline fens, gravelly slopes, and shores of ponds and lakes; often associated with calcareous substrates. Associated species include resin birch (*Betula glandulosa*), willows (*Salix* spp.), sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum* spp.), bulrushes (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*), tall cotton-grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium* ssp. *angustifolium*), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), and sedges (*Carex flava*, *C. lasiocarpa*, *C. limosa*, *C. utriculata*, and others). Elevations in WA: 900-1100 m (2900-3600 ft).

Comments: This taxon is rare in several states, B.C., and the Yukon. Threats include hydrologic alteration (damming or diking), ground-disturbing activities, and herbicide application.

References: Cronquist *et al.* 1972-94, vol. 6; Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 25.

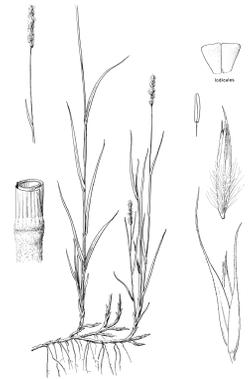


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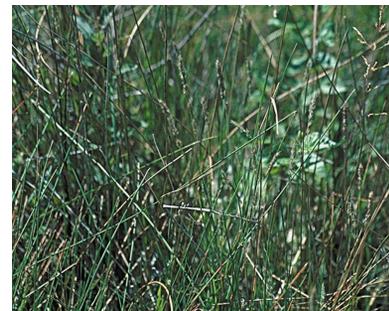


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