

ERIOPHORUM VIRGINICUM L.
Tawny Cottongrass

FAMILY: Cyperaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, fertile culms 0.4-1.2 m.; fruiting July, August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The genus is very distinctive and unlikely to be misidentified. *E. virginicum* can be distinguished from *E. gracile* by the presence of 2 or more prominent bracts. *E. viridicarinatum* has black to greenish-black pistillate scales with one prominent nerve, while *E. virginicum* has brown to red-brown pistillate scales with 3-5 evident nerves. *E. virginicum* is the latest member of the genus to bloom in Ohio.

TOTAL RANGE: Newfoundland and Quebec to Man. and MN, s. to FL and KY.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Geauga, Licking, Portage, Richland, Stark, Summit, and Wayne counties. There are pre-1980 records from 4 other counties: Ashland, Ashtabula, Defiance, and Huron.

HABITAT: Open, moist situations, usually in acidic substrates; bogs, peaty meadows, lake margins.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: A conspicuous species that is not likely to be overlooked. Its state range may be accurately known.

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.

Voss, E.G. 1972. Michigan flora, Part I, Gymnosperms and monocots. Cranbrook Inst. of Sci. Bull. 55, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 488 p.



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