

SIDE-OATS GRAMA

Bouteloua curtipendula var. *curtipendula*

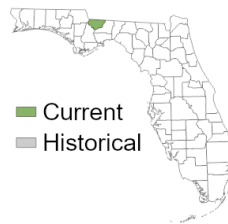
(Michx.) Torr.

Synonyms: none

Family: Poaceae (grass)

FNAI Ranks: G5T5/S1

Legal Status: US-none FL-none



Side-oats grama. Photo © Aiden Campos

Field Description: **Plants** perennial; cespitose or not, with or without rhizomes. **Culms** 8-80 cm, erect or decumbent, solitary or in small to large groups. **Leaves** evenly distributed; sheaths mostly glabrous, sometimes with hairs distally; ligules 0.3-0.5 mm, membranous, ciliate; blades 2-30 cm long (1.4)2.5-7 mm wide, at least some over 2.5 mm wide, flat or folded when dry, usually smooth abaxially and scabrous adaxially, occasionally pubescent, bases usually with papillose-based hairs on the margins. **Panicles** 13-30 cm, secund, with (12)30-80 reflexed branches; branches (5)10-30(40) mm, deciduous, with (1)2-7(15) spikelets, axes terminating 3-5 mm beyond the base of the terminal spikelets, apices entire; disarticulation at the base of the branches. **Spikelets** appressed, all alike, with 1 bisexual and 1-2 sterile, rudimentary florets. **Glumes** unequal, glabrous or scabrous; lower glumes 2.5-6 mm, 1/2 or more as long as the upper glumes; upper glumes 5.5-8 mm; lowest lemmas 3-6.5 mm, glabrous or scabrous-strigose, often minutely rugose, acute or inconspicuously 3-lobed, 3-veined, veins usually extending as short mucros or awns to 6 mm; central mucros or awns not flanked by membranous lobes; lowest paleas acute, unawned; anthers 1.5-3.5 mm, yellow, orange, red, or purple; distal floret(s) 0.4-3.5 mm, sterile, variable,

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usually a glabrous lemma having a short membranous base, no palea, and 3 unequally-developed awns, central awns 1.5-7 mm. $2n = (20), 40, 41-103$.

Similar Species: The only other member of the genus (*Bouteloua*) in the state of Florida is hairy-grama (*Bouteloua hirsuta*), which does not occur in Northern Florida.

Related Rare Species: There are no other rare members of this genus in Florida.

Habitat: In Florida this species occurs in upland glades.

Best Survey Season: Flowering: May-Nov.

Range-wide Distribution: S. CT west to MT, south to VA, e. TN, nw. GA, AL, Panhandle FL (Gadsden County), TX, AZ, and CA; also in Central and South America.

Conservation Status: This species occurs in uplands glades in Florida, which is a rare and vulnerable community. There have been few records of the species in Florida, and only one that has been recorded in the last 40 years.

Protection and Management: Protection of the glades this plants occurs on is necessary to prevent disturbance to the ground cover.

References: Weakley 2024.



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