

CURTISS' DROPSEED

Sporobolus curtissii (Vasey ex Beal) Small ex Scribn.

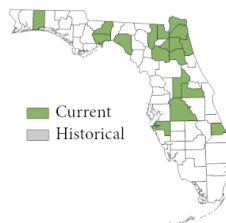
Synonyms: none

Family: Poaceae (grass)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S4?

Legal Status: US-none FL-none

Wetland Status: US-FACU++ FL-FAC



Keith Bradley



Guy Anglin

Field Description: Perennial grass. Each individual forms a dense tussock up to 0.75 m wide and 0.3 m high. Leaves are linear, up to 0.25 m long, 1-2 mm wide when flat, but prone to folding or becoming involute with age and/or drought. Several to many erect culms reach 0.3-0.8 m tall, each producing a terminal panicle up to 0.25 m long. Panicle is reddish to purplish brown colored, with spikelets appressed to the branches. Plants seldom produce flowering culms unless burned.

Similar Species: *Sporobolus curtissii* can be identified when sterile, but only with practice, since it co-occurs with at least five other tussock-forming species, such as *Muhlenbergia expansa*. A good character is its relatively short, bright green leaves; those of *Muhlenbergia expansa* may be as short, but are blue-green.

Related Rare Species: *Sporobolus vaseyi* is an endemic, state threatened species.

Curtiss' dropseed

Sporobolus curtissii

The species known ranges only overlap in Wakulla and Okaloosa counties.

Habitat: Flatwoods and dry pine barrens.

Best Survey Season: Fall.

Range-wide Distribution: South Carolina to Florida.

Conservation Status: Relatively small range. Not well documented in much of range, due to being overlooked in the field. Threats by fire suppression and conversion to timber plantations have caused severe habitat fragmentation.

Protection and Management: Needs fire for reproduction, plants seldom produce flowering culms unless burned.

References: NatureServe