



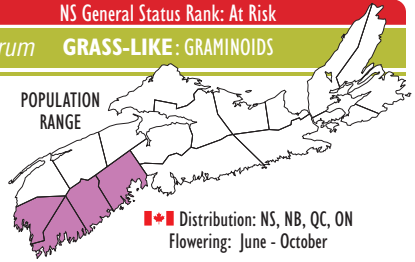
Spreading Panic Grass

Panicum dichotomiflorum var. *puritanorum*

NS General Status Rank: At Risk

GRASS-LIKE : GRAMINOIDS

POPULATION
RANGE



🇨🇦 Distribution: NS, NB, QC, ON
Flowering: June - October



Panicum dichotomiflorum © JOHN HILTY



Leaf and stem © JOHN HILTY



Flowering spikelets

© JOHN HILTY

SIZE: Up to 1 m tall.

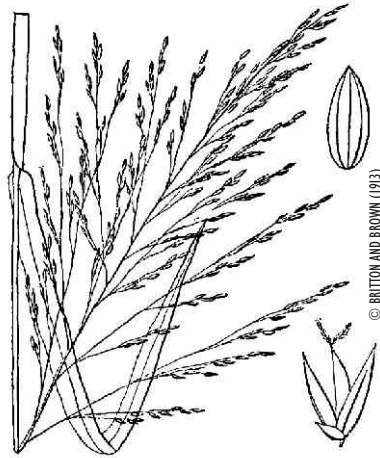
LEAVES: Long, narrow, smooth, often drooping, 10-50 cm long and 0.5-2 cm wide.

STEM: Smooth, round, erect or often reclining or lying on the ground.

FLOWERS: Pyramid-shaped cluster of flowers (panicle) that is widely branched, feathery in appearance, up to 40 cm long, and composed of many small spikelets. The spikelets are narrow, 2 mm long and green or purplish.

FRUITS: Small dry grains enclosed in the spikelets.

NOTES: Also known as Fall Panic Grass.



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Habitat:

Sandy or gravelly lakeshores.

Similar species: *Panicum dichotomiflorum* var. *dichotomiflorum* tends to be slightly larger, is most often erect, has slightly longer spikelets (2.5-3 mm) and is most often found in disturbed habitats.

Old Switch Panic Grass (*Panicum virgatum* var. *spissum*, page 79) has oval spikelets and is usually erect. Redtop Panic Grass (*Panicum rigidulum* var. *pubescens*, page 78) and Eaton's Panic Grass (*Dichanthelium spretum*, page 67) both have much shorter and narrower panicles.

Interesting point: There are 14 species of panic grasses in Nova Scotia (not including varieties or subspecies) and 475 globally!