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## Maine Natural Areas Program

### *Calamagrostis cinnoides* (Muhl) W. Bart.

#### Small Reed Grass

- State Rank: S3
- Global Rank: G5
- State Status: Special Concern

**Habitat:** Open areas: bogs, peaty meadows, wet rocks and shores. [Old field/roadside (non-forested, wetland or upland)]

**Range:** Nova Scotia , coastal states from Maine to Georgia, and less often inland to West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

**Aids to Identification:** Identification of species of the genus *Calamagrostis* is usually difficult and dependent upon rather technical characters. They are all perennial grasses with long, narrow leaves, and 1-flowered spikelets with a tuft of hairs at the base of the lemma.

This particular species grows to 0.6-1.2 meters. It is stout and smooth and the main leaf blades are 5-10 mm wide. The flowering cluster is dense and erect, 10-20 cm long, and the awn (a slender bristle) is attached above the middle of the lemma.

**Ecological characteristics:** Very little is known about the ecological characteristics of this species in Maine. It grows in open areas and clearings. Known occurrences have a patchy distribution, forming clones in open, sandy soil wetlands.

**Phenology:** Fruits August - October.


**Family:** Poaceae

**Synonyms:** *Arundo cinnoides* Muhl; *Calamagrostis coarcta* (Torr.) Torr. ex Eat.; *Deyeuxia nuttalliana* (Steud.) Vasey.


**Known Distribution in Maine:** This rare plant has been documented from a total of 13 town(s) in the following county(ies): Cumberland, York.

**Reason(s) for rarity:** At northern limit of range.

**Conservation considerations:** Currently known to occur in robust populations in a human-maintained shrub/herb habitat; management prevents encroachment of trees.



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