



Maine Department of Conservation  
Natural Areas Program

Rare Plant Fact Sheet  
PMPOA170X0

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*Calamagrostis pickeringii* Gray

Pickering's Reed Bent-grass

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**Habitat:** Acid peats or sands, gravels and shores.  
[Coastal non-tidal wetland (non-forested, wetland)]

**Range:** Newfoundland south to the mountains of Massachusetts and New York.

**Phenology:** Fruits late June - early September

**Family:** Poaceae

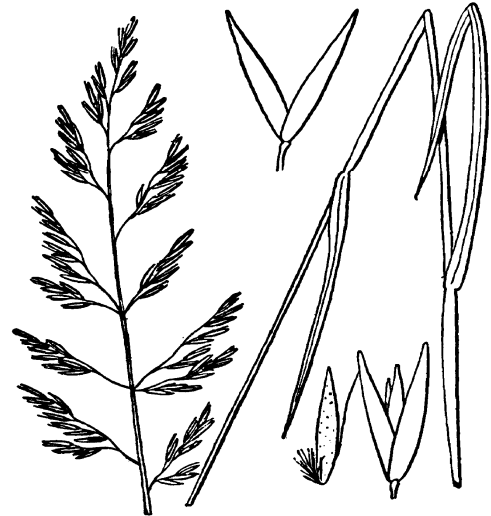


Illustration from Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada, 2nd ed.

**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 20-70 cm. The leaf blades are 3-7 mm wide, tapering to the base, and rough beneath. The flowering cluster is dense and erect, 4-15 cm long, and the short awn (a slender bristle) is attached near the base of the lemma. The callus hairs are very short (up to 1.0 mm long).

**Ecological characteristics:** This species is known to occur in peatlands along the coast of downeast Maine.

**Synonyms:** *Calamagrostis pickeringii* Gray var. *debilis* (Kearney) Fern. & Wieg.

**Rarity of *Calamagrostis pickeringii***

<b>State Rank:</b>	S1	Critically imperiled in Maine because of extreme rarity or vulnerability to extirpation.
<b>New England Rank:</b>	Division 2	Regionally rare plant: Fewer than 20 current (seen since 1970) occurrences within New England.
<b>Global Rank:</b>	G4	Widespread, abundant, and apparently secure globally, but with cause for long-term concern.

**Status of *Calamagrostis pickeringii***

<b>Federal Status:</b>	None	No Federal Status.
<b>State Status:</b>	Threatened	Rare and, with further decline, could become endangered; or federally listed as Threatened. Listing criteria met: Few individuals, At edge of range



- ▲ Historical (before 1982)  
● Recent (1982 - present)

### Known Distribution in Maine:

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 3 town(s) in the following county(ies): Hancock, Washington.

**Dates of documented observations are:** 1986, 1991, 1995 (2), 1997 (2), 1999, 2000

### Reason(s) for rarity:

Uncommon through much of its range.

### Conservation considerations:

Known populations are in peatlands, sometimes along bordering roads. Maintenance of the hydrology is presumably important in this plant's persistence.

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Plant rarity and status is based on 2008 data and the rest of the information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biological and Conservation Database on 11 MAY 2004. We are grateful to our Botanical Advisory Group for additional information on particular species, and in particular, to Arthur Haines for his assistance with identifying characteristics and taxonomic questions. Nomenclature follows Haines and Vining's *Flora of Maine* (V.F. Thomas Press, 1998); where older works refer to a plant by another name, it is given under "Synonyms". The Natural Areas Program, within the Department of Conservation, maintains the most comprehensive source of information on Maine's rare or endangered plants and rare or exemplary natural communities, and is a member of the Association for Biodiversity Information.

If you know of locations for this plant or would like more information on this species,  
please contact the Natural Areas Program  
State House Station 93, Augusta, Maine 04333; telephone (207) 287-8044.

