



Glyceria melicaria

melic mannagrass

Family Poaceae

Origin Native

WIS Code OBL CoC 7

DESCRIPTION

This wetland grass has slender, erect stems (50 cm to 1.2 m tall). The leaves are thin, drooping, flat, seven to nine per stem (to 50 cm long) and slightly rough. Sheaths are smooth.

FLOWERS AND FRUITS

July through August. This species is characterized by its very narrow linear arrangement of the flowering head arising from the top of the flowering stems (15-36 cm long) and nodding at the tip. Spikelets, containing two to four flowers each, are held on erect branches close to and along the upper flower stalk. Fruits are seed grains (1.2 to 1.5 mm) shiny and black.

HABITAT

Wet woods, swamps, seeps, and stream banks mainly in the mountains.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Glyceria striata, fowl mannagrass, has an open pyramid flower head rather than the very narrow linear arrangement of *G. melicaria*. *G. striata* also has fused sheaths and purple spikelets that are lacking in *G. melicaria*, and slightly smaller red (not black) seed grains (0.8 mm). See the *G. striata* page for more details on this species.



© Rob Curtis



© Charlie Hohn



© Donald Cameron