

**Vascular Plants of Williamson County**  
*Eleusine indica* – GOOSE GRASS [Poaceae]

*Eleusine indica* (L.) Gaertn., GOOSE GRASS. Annual, fibrous-rooted, several-stemmed at base, caespitose, forming lateral shoot at each node, prostrate or decumbent to ascending, 10–60 cm tall; shoots strongly bent at each node (geniculate), hairs few, long, soft, and having swollen bases. **Stems (culms):** compressed, to 2 mm diameter, tough, glabrous; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; sheath open, compressed and keeled, sometimes sparsely pilose with long hairs on margins approaching collar, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule membranous, truncate and jagged and short-ciliate, 1–2 mm long; blade linear, 50–250 × 3–10 mm, the widest near the base, folded, entire below and margins minutely toothed above midblade, parallel-veined with well-developed midrib raised on lower surface, distinctly striped and with scattered hairs only next to collar, upper surface midrib translucent, scabrous approaching tip, lower surface bright green. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal panicle with umbel-like branches often with 1 branch arising below terminal cluster of 2–7(–12) ascending to erect, spikelike branches, the branches (40–)60–100(–150) mm long, 1-sided with sessile spikelets on 3-sided axis restricted to 2 overlapping rows and with a terminal fertile spikelet, spikelets with 3–7 florets, bracteate, glabrous, lacking awns; main axis (culm) somewhat compressed, striped green and white, glabrous; branch axes with pulvinus at base on upper side, ± straight and not strongly wavy, folded to crescent-shaped in ×-section, not breaking apart, glossy, margin but not ridge whitish and entire and slightly wavy, glabrous, pulvinus light green and hairy, lacking bristle at tip. **Spikelet:** compressed side-to-side, 5–8 mm long, breaking above glumes and between florets; **glumes** 2, unequal, strongly keeled, lower glume in range 1.5–3 mm long and 1(–4)-veined, upper glume 2.5–5 mm long and generally 5–7-veined, lower glume < upper glume, membranous with green veins, keel minutely toothed and scabrous; **lemma** strongly keeled, 2.5–4 mm long, resembling upper glume with additional vein separate from others on each side, notched at tip; **palea** < lemma and enclosed by it, membranous, 2-veined, 2-keeled with depressed center, short-ciliate along keels. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, wedge-shaped with lateral lobe, flat, 0.3–0.4 mm long, translucent; **stamens** 3, free; filaments threadlike, ca. 4 mm long, white; anthers exerted at tip of lemma, dithecal, 0.6–0.8 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, oblong-ovoid, greenish, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, exerted about midpoint of lemma, with papillate stigmas. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis).

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