

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Eragrostis hypnoides – CREEPING LOVE GRASS, TEEL LOVE GRASS [Poaceae]

Eragrostis hypnoides (Lam.) Britt., Stearns & Poggenb., CREEPING LOVE GRASS, TEEL LOVE GRASS. Annual, stolon-producing, mat-forming, several-stemmed at base and 1–several-stemmed from each rooted node, with ascending to erect inflorescences, 2–12(–20) cm tall; shoots with mostly basal leaves at each node, mostly glabrous, nonglandular; adventitious roots only at nodes. **Stems (culms):** cylindric but becoming deeply grooved when dry, 1 mm diameter, greenish on ridges aging brownish to dark purplish red and grooves becoming tawny, glabrous and ± glossy or lower internodes hairy and nodes sometimes with several scattered hairs. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; prophyll linear-oblong and strongly 2-keeled, to 8 mm long, membranous with green parallel veins, margins folded inward along keels and ± winglike below midpoint, sparsely pilose on lower (outer) surface, pilose-ciliate at tip around base of vein extensions 0.8–2.5 mm long; sheath open, rounded and veiny on back, sometimes finely pilose-ciliate on margins, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule of white hairs, 0.1–0.6 mm long; collar pilose; blade lanceolate-linear, in range 5–30 × 0.8–2.5 mm, the widest near base, flat when fresh becoming inrolled when water-stressed, parallel-veined with midvein slightly more conspicuous than other veins on lower surface but inconspicuous on upper surface, dull, glabrous or fine short-hairy on one or both surfaces. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal or axillary panicles, panicle open to condensed, ellipsoid-ovoid, 20–35 × 7–20 mm, with most ascending lateral branches 5–20 mm long, longer ones branched again and upper branches unbranched, spikelets ascending, alternate distichous, with 5–24(–35) florets; each branch with an axillary pulvinus, the pulvinus glabrous to sparsely pilose; stalk of spikelets 0.2–1.8 mm long, glabrous to sparsely hairy. **Spikelet:** linear-oblong to ovate compressed side-to-side, 2.5–7 × 1–2 mm, straight or sometimes arching, not breaking apart; **glumes** 2, unequal, linear-lanceolate to lanceolate or narrowly triangular, lower glume 0.4–0.5(–0.7) mm long and upper glume 0.8–0.9(–1.2) mm long, keeled along midvein, acute at tip, scarious but with a green midvein; **lemma** ovate, 1.3–1.6 mm long, acute-acuminate at tip, 3-veined but veins not converging at tip scarious with green veins, keeled along midvein and midvein scabrous approaching tip; **palea** (1) 1.1–1.2 mm long, arched, 2-veined, 2-keeled with margins strongly folded along veins, transparent and scarious with green veins, 2-toothed with acute to obtuse tip or with acute tip also between keels. **Flower: perianth (lodicules)** 2, ovate, ca. 0.15 mm long, transparent, acute at tip; **stamens** 2, free; filaments ca. 1 mm long, translucent-white; anthers dithecal, 0.2–0.3 mm long, light yellow (brownish), longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1, 1–1.2 mm long; ovary superior, obovoid to ellipsoid, 0.3–0.5 mm long, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2 diverging from top of ovary, 0.7–0.9 mm long, pale green, glabrous, ± feathery (plumose) above midpoint, stigmas translucent-white. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), ellipsoid to obovoid slightly compressed, ca. 0.5 mm long, light brown.

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