

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Eragrostis trichodes – SAND LOVEGRASS [Poaceae]

Eragrostis trichodes (Nutt.) Alph. Wood, SAND LOVEGRASS. Perennial herb, not rosetted, fibrous-rooted, tufted and many-stemmed at base, in range < 40 cm tall; shoots with basal and cauline leaves having sheaths concealing nodes and internodes, lacking glands, with some long hairs at top sheath and on collar. **Stems:** cylindric, < 2 mm diameter, nodes and internodes fully hidden with overlapping sheaths, smooth, glabrous, lacking glands. **Leaves:** alternate (not strongly distichous), simple with sheath; prophyll 2-keeled, triangular, ciliate on margins; sheath open, basal leaves with triangular sheath with or without vestigial blade, faintly low-ridged, with purple bands and tuft of long hairs 4(–5) mm long at top of sheath, margins without hairs, lacking lobes (auricles) at top; ligule densely ciliate, ca. 0.4 mm long; collar with long hairs 5 mm long on upper surface; blade linear, to 150 × 3 mm (diminished or absent on the lowest leaves), flat drying inrolled, entire, parallel-veined, upper surface finely ridged and somewhat scabrous. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in open, terminal array, branchlets sometimes gathered at base by sheath of flag leaf, spikelets having 4–6 florets, lacking awns; branchlets mostly alternate but the uppermost sets appearing 3-whorled; branchlets ascending, with pulvinus in axil, 1.5–3 mm long, ± purple, each with several straight hairs, the longest branchlet to 120 mm long, axis fine, weakly ridged or not, not scabrous but with minute teeth, lacking glands, rachis finely low-ridged; stalk of spikelet spreading, fine, 5–13 mm long, > spikelet. **Spikelet:** compressed side-to-side, in range ca. 5 × 1.8–3.7 mm, with lemmas and fruits dehiscent but arching paleae persistent; **glumes** 2, subequal, lower glume keeled, 1.5–2.6 mm long, 1-veined, often purple, scabrous nearly to base, upper glume keeled, 2–2.5(–3) mm long, often purplish, 1-veined, scabrous midpoint to tip; **lemma** keeled, 2.6–3.2 mm long, > glume, 3-veined, veins green except at tip, initially short-ciliate above midpoint, scabrous on upper 1/3, often blushed red-purple or along keel, with minute hairs approaching tip; **palea** 2-keeled shallowly notched at tip, 2-veined, more narrow and < lemma, with folded margins 0.4 mm wide. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, ± D-shaped, ca. 0.3 mm long, colorless, minutely bumpy; **stamens** 3, free; filaments initially 1 mm long, white; anthers dorsifixed (versatile), dithecal, 1.4 mm long, red-purple, longitudinally dehiscent; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, obovoid, 0.3–0.35 mm long, opaque, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, 1 mm long, colorless, bottlebrushlike above midpoint. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), somewhat prismatic compressed front-to-back, ± 1 mm long, dark reddish brown, with a deep groove on 1 surface.

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