

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Panicum hallii subsp. *hallii* – FILLY WITCHGRASS, FILLY PANICGRASS [Poaceae]

Panicum hallii Vasey subsp. *filipes* (Scribn.) Freckm. & LeLong, FILLY WITCHGRASS, FILLY PANICGRASS. Perennial herb, fibrous-rooted, not rosetted. **Stems:** cylindric, to 2 mm diameter, smooth, nodes conspicuously hirsute with appressed, upward-pointing hairs. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; prophyll strongly 2-keeled deeply concave between keels, to 17 mm long, short-ciliate along keels, 2-veined; sheath open, ridged, with scattered short hairs having enlarged base (pustulate) in furrows; ligule truncate, membranous ciliate from midpoint or below, 1.2–1.5 mm long, hairs stiff; collar to 1.5 mm long, whitish; blade folded upward from midridge not inrolling when dried, to 220 × 4–5 mm, minutely toothed and with some pustulate long hairs on colorless margins, long-tapered at tip, parallel-veined with veins raised on both surfaces, upper surface glaucous. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal, paniclelike array with several, ascending, racemelike lateral primary branches, 1 primary branch per node, branches to 120 mm long decreasing upward, the lower branches with 1–several short branchlets along axis, branchlet with 1–3 nodes, spikelets at node stalked in pairs and tip of axis with 1 terminal spikelet, spikelet with 2 florets, the lower floret lacking flower, the upper floret bisexual, bracteate, glabrous, lacking awns; blade of flag leaf nearly to top of inflorescence; principal axis of array nearly smooth at base becoming minutely scabrous and angled approaching midpoint; primary branch with axillary pulvinus, above pulvinus axis ± cylindric or flattened on 1 side, straight or somewhat sinusoidal; branchlet with axillary pulvinus, the stalks of spikelets appressed, slender and sinusoidal, 2–2.5 mm long and 4–5 mm long, scabrous. **Spikelet:** ovoid, 2.1–3 × 0.8–1 mm, with lemma and palea of fertile floret spreading at anthesis, breaking below glumes; **glumes** 2, unequal, glabrous; lower glume cupped-ovate, 1.2–1.5 mm, membranous and 3-veined or 5-veined, midvein only to tip, 3 veins raised and green, midvein with whitish tip and minutely scabrous above midpoint; upper glume cupped-ovate, ca. 2.4 mm long, membranous and 7(–11)-veined, veins green, purplish at tip; **lower floret lemma** inrolled, ca. 2.4 mm long, with 9 green veins, **palea** membranous, folded, ca. 1.3 mm long, veins absent, often splitting at top; **upper floret lemma** strongly cupped rounded-ovate, 1.5–1.8 × 0.8 mm, finely 5-veined, glossy and smooth; **palea** membranous, elliptic, 1.4–1.5 mm long, glossy. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, pyramidal, 0.4 mm long, translucent; **stamens** 3, free; filament threadlike, 0.7–1 mm long, colorless; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.9–1 mm long, red to orange-red, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, fan-shaped, ca. 0.7 × 0.35 mm, translucent somewhat greenish, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, widely spaced on top of ovary, ca. 2 mm long, colorless with exerted bottlebrushlike stigmas, 1 mm long, burgundy, exerted sideways from floret. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis) enclosed in floret and spikelet.

A. C. Gibson