

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Polypogon viridis – WATER BEARDGRASS [Poaceae]

Polypogon viridis (Gouan) Breistr., WATER BEARDGRASS. Aquatic perennial herb, evergreen, clonal, without obvious rhizomes, fibrous-rooted, several-stemmed at base, clumped to caespitose, erect to decumbent, in range 10–50 cm tall; shoots glabrous; with adventitious roots at lower nodes. **Stems (culms):** cylindric, < 2 mm diameter, tough, internodes 35–90 mm long; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; sheath open, shallowly ridged, with only outer margin membranous, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule membranous, truncate, 1.2–4.5 mm long, often with 1 or 2 splits to base, irregularly toothed, minutely scabrous; blade linear-lanceolate, 25–80(–200+) × 2.5–5 mm, the widest near base, flat, minutely toothed and scabrous on margins, long-acuminate at tip, parallel-veined with midrib raised on lower surface, upper surface minutely scabrous along veins. **Inflorescence:** spikelet, in terminal, open panicles, panicle lanceolate to cylindric in outline, 20–70 × 6–30 mm, many-branched, interrupted with distichous semi-whorls of 3–10+ ascending to spreading lateral branches, of many spikelets, spikelet with 1 floret, bracteate, glabrous, lacking awns; lower main axis concealed by ascending branches, striped (corrugated), glabrous or sparsely minutely scabrous; major branches spreading, to 25(–40) mm long, striped, with axillary pulvinus, branchlets minutely scabrous. **Spikelet:** erect, not compressed, breaking below glumes; **glumes** 2, subequal, lanceolate, 1.2–1.6 mm long, at anthesis > spikelet, green with membranous margins often aging purplish, truncate to obtuse at tip, short-strigose and minutely scabrous along midvein; rachilla not prolonged above palea; floret subsessile; **lemma** membranous, lanceolate, 0.9–1.2 mm long, 5-veined, 5-toothed; **palea** membranous, 0.7–1 mm long, lemma slightly > palea, 2-veined, not 2-keeled, 2-toothed. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, membranous, lanceolate, ± 0.3 mm long; **stamens** 3, free; filaments threadlike, initially < 0.5 mm long increasing to become exerted, whitish; anthers exerted from top of lemma, dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.3–0.5 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1, 0.7–0.9 mm long; ovary superior, obovoid, ± 0.3 × 1.5 mm, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, ascending, narrowly separated 0.1 mm, 0.4–0.5 mm long, conspicuously feathery nearly to base (plumose). **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), oblanceoloid to ellipsoid slightly compressed, 0.6–0.8 × 0.3–0.4 mm, orangey brown (reddish), glabrous, with shriveled remnants of stigmas persisting at tip; fruit wall finely wrinkled to form irregular longitudinal ridges.
A. C. Gibson & B. A. Prigge