

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Trisetum interruptum – PRAIRIE TRisetum [Poaceae]

Trisetum interruptum Buckl., PRAIRIE TRisetum. Annual, fibrous-rooted, not rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, unbranched below inflorescence, in range 10–70 cm tall having terminal inflorescence; shoot with to 3 basal leaves and to 4 cauline leaves. **Stem:** cylindric, to 1.2 mm diameter (swollen node) but exceedingly slender on diminutive plants, cauline internodes to 80 mm long, above cauline leaves translucent and green-striped, node glabrous to sparsely puberulent and internodes sometime sparsely puberulent; internode hollow (even on slender axes). **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; prophylls absent; sheath open to closed < 4 mm, veins slightly raised or not, margins membranous and short-ciliate nearly to node, lacking lobes (auricles) at top; ligule membranous, to ca. 2.5 mm long, tattered and short-ciliate at top, very minutely scabrous on back surface; collar < 0.5 mm long, white, glabrous; blade linear, in range to 155 × 3.5 mm, the widest near base, entire and short-ciliate on margins, long-tapered at tip, parallel-veined with veins slightly raised on both surfaces, lower surface sparsely minute scabrous along veins. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, many in a terminal, relatively dense panicle, panicle in range 80–150 × 15 mm in flower and fruit (diminutive plants with panicles 20 mm long), appearing interrupted with the lowest rachis internode to 24 mm long decreasing upward, nodes alternate distichous and having mostly 3 unequal branches per node but then shortly several-branched, branchlets to 15 mm long, spikelet of 2–3 fertile, bisexual florets, bracteate, awned; peduncle translucent green-striped; rachis of panicle internodes somewhat ridged with scabrous teeth scarcely visible; branch and branchlet axes initially ± appressed, angled and conspicuously scabrous, initially green. **Spikelet:** flattened side-to-side, breaking above glumes (later also below glumes); **glumes** 2, somewhat dimorphic, not awned, lower glume acuminate-elliptic to oblanceolate (lanceolate), ca. 3.3 × 0.5–1 mm, 2–3-veined, green with colorless membranous margins or tinged purple, short-ciliate on margins, minutely scabrous along veins, minutely fringed approaching awnlike point (< 0.5 mm long) at tip, upper glume obovate, 3.3–3.8 × 1.4 mm, 3–5-veined; callous puberulent; rachilla internodes 1 mm long. **Floret:** lemma awned, 2-lobed at tip with awn arising from notch (sometimes unlobed), in range 3.5–3.7 × 2 mm including acuminate lobes to 1.4 mm long, > glume, below notch back minutely bumpy (minutely pustulate-scabridulous), above notch 5-veined, the awn (1–)4–8 mm long and straight, arched, or wavy; **palea** membranous, strongly 2-folded and 2-veined, lanceolate, 2.3–2.5 × 0.5 mm, < lemma, ± jagged-truncate at tip, minutely scabrous along keels. **Flower:** perianth (**lodicules**) 2, narrowly wedge-shaped, to 0.35 mm long, colorless; **stamens** 3, free; filaments threadlike, to 2 mm long, white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, to 0.5 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **pistil** 1, < 2 mm long; ovary superior, obovoid, ca. 0.4 × 0.3 mm, colorless, minutely ribbed, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, papillate-hairy, to 0.7 mm long, colorless. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), dispersed within entire spikelet enclosed in inrolled lemma, cylindric, ca. 1.8–2.3 × 0.3–0.35 mm, brown and appearing finely striped (striae).

A. C. Gibson