

**Vascular Plants of Williamson County**  
*Urochloa reptans* – SPRAWLING SIGNALGRASS [Poaceae]

*Urochloa reptans* (L.) Staph, SPRAWLING SIGNALGRASS. Annual, not rosetted, fibrous-rooted at plant base and along trailing branches, several-stemmed at base, mat-forming, in range < 25 cm tall; potentially andromonoecious; shoots with only cauline leaves; adventitious roots at lower nodes. **Stems:** cylindrical, < 2 mm diameter, internodes < 30 mm long and glabrous but with short hairs at node next to base of sheath. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; prophyll membranous, 2-keeled, several–11 mm long, with 2 green veins, short-notched at tip; sheath open, mostly < internode, lower portion short-hairy on outer surface, outer margin conspicuously and densely ciliate, drying low-ridged, without lobes (auricles) at top, collar narrow, white; ligule fused at base above hairy and deeply jagged, 0.5–1.2 mm long; blade lanceolate, in range 18–40+ × 4–11 mm, entire and minutely scabrous on margins also near collar margins having several hairs to 2 mm long with enlarged bases (pustulate), lower surface short-hairy near sheath.

**Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal, short panicle with 4+ ascending to widely spreading principal branches with 0–2 short, appressed branchlets, branches 7–12+ mm long, branches and branchlets having 3-sided axis, spikelets somewhat appressed on lower side from 2 sides of axis, spikelets 1 to 2 at each node, stalked, stalks 0.5–1 mm long, in pair unequal, rachis and stalks short-scabrous with the longer hairs along edges, breaking below spikelet. **Spikelet:** with 2 florets, lower floret typically sterile (= lemma or lemma + palea) but reportedly sometimes staminate, upper floret bisexual, ellipsoid flattened on upper side, ± 2 × 1 mm, glabrous; **glumes** 2, unequal and dimorphic, lower glume membranous, truncate, ± 0.5 mm long, colorless or tinged purplish, typically lacking vein, upper glume ovate, 2 mm long with short point at tip, tissue colorless with 7 green veins lacking cross veins, often tinged purple-red on 1 margin. **Lower floret lemma** ovate, ca. 2 mm long, colorless or tinged purple-red on 1 margin, with 5 green veins lacking cross veins, similar to upper glume; **palea** (if present) ovate with margins folded along 2 fine veins, 1.5–1.7 mm long, thin, colorless with green veins. **Upper floret lemma** cupped-ovate, 1.5 mm long, thickish, whitish, with 5 faint veins, outer surface having minute transverse ridges (verrucose); **palea** ovate, 1.5 mm long, whitish, with margins folded along 2 veins, outer surface minutely bumpy (verrucose). **Bisexual flower: perianth (lodicules)** 2, ovate, 0.3 mm long, colorless; **stamens** 3, free, anthers partially exerted at top of spikelet; filaments 1.5–1.8 mm long, colorless; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.4–0.5 mm long, reddish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pinkish; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ovoid, ca. 0.4 × 0.3 mm, colorless, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, bases close, stigmatic tips exerted near top of spikelet, 1.1–1.4 mm long, colorless to above midpoint and stigmatic portion above midpoint purple-red and bottlebrushlike to tip. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), of upper floret dispersed as unit within hardened lemma and palea, rugulose and verrucose on outer surface.

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