

Dichanthelium clandestinum



deer-tongue witchgrass

Family	Poaceae		
Origin	Native		
WIS Code	FAC	CoC	3

DESCRIPTION

Spring stems are erect, stiff, light green (70 cm to 1.5 m tall), hairy and unbranched. Leaves (10 to 20 cm long, 1.3 to 3 cm wide) are lance-shaped, flat and smooth except near the stem where they are hairy and clasp the stem. The leaf sheaths are light green, veined and upper sheaths are likely to be hairy. Fall stems are branching and overwinter as rosettes of basal leaves.



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FLOWERS AND FRUITS

Spring stems– June to September; Fall stems – July to November. At the tip of each spring stem extends a pyramid-like branching head (8 to 15 cm long) of flower spikelets (2.4 to 3.6 mm). Much smaller flower heads produced in the fall remain hidden within their sheaths near the stem tips. Both spring and fall spikelets produce seeds to 2.5 mm long that are oval and slightly flattened.



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HABITAT

Floodplain forests, swamps, seeps, sand and gravel bars, wet fields, and roadsides.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Dichanthelium dichotomum, cypress panicgrass, while similar is overall a diminutive plant, having slightly shorter stems (to 70 cm tall), smaller leaves (1 to 3.5 cm long, 3 to 8 mm wide), smaller flower heads (4 to 9 cm long), and smaller spikelets (1.7 to 2.3 mm).



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