**Muhlenbergia glomerata** (Willd.) Trin.
marsh muhly
Poaceae - grass family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive
rank: G5 / S1S2

**General Description:** Adapted from Cronquist et al. (1972-94) and Flora of North America (1993+): Perennial from long, creeping, scaly rhizomes. Stems 3-12 dm, erect, unbranched or sparingly branched, hollow, slightly compressed, the internodes dull, finely hairy (sometimes sparsely so). Leaf sheaths slightly keeled, hairless to slightly roughened from short stiff hairs. Ligules 0.2-0.6 mm long, membranous, upper margin irregularly torn to fringed with hairs. Blades flat, 2-15 cm x 2-6 mm, roughened.

**Floral Characteristics:** Panicles 1.5-12 cm long, narrow and spikelike, somewhat lobed with densely clustered spikelets. Spikelets 1-flowered, green to purplish. Glumes nearly equal, 3-8 mm long (including the short awn), usually exceeding the lemma, narrow, 1-veined. Lemma 2-3.1 mm long, 3-nerved, hairy on the nerves and margins, tapering to a pointed tip, awnless or sometimes with a short awn. Callus bearded, the hairs 1 mm long. Anthers 0.8-1 (1.5) mm long.

**Fruits:** Caryopses 1-1.6 mm long. Identifiable July to August.

**Identification Tips:** *Muhlenbergia racemosa* is similar, but does not occur in WA. It can be distinguished by its smooth, polished internodes, lemmas that are long-hairy at the base only, and longer ligules (0.6-1.5 mm). Additionally, *M. glomerata* is confined to moister, less disturbed habitats while *M. racemosa* is found in drier, often disturbed sites.

**Range:** Throughout most of Canada and the northern U.S., south to NV, CO, IL, KY, and NC.


**Comments:** This taxon is rare in several states, B.C., and the Yukon. Threats include hydrologic alteration (damming or diking), ground-disturbing activities, and herbicide application.


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Adapted from *Field Guide to the Rare Plants of Washington*
http://www.washington.edu/uwpress/search/books/CAMFIE.html