



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

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Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Frank's Lovegrass *Eragrostis frankii* Meyers.

State Status: **Special Concern**
Federal Status: **None**

DESCRIPTION: Frank's Lovegrass is an annual grass with repeatedly branched, erect culms, 1-3 dm high. The narrow blades are 5-13 cm long and 1-3 mm wide. The tiny spikelets are ovate and typically 3-5 flowered. The flowering season is August-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Nine other species of *Eragrostis* are recorded from Massachusetts. The following species are from the same habitat as *E. frankii*: *E. hypnoides*, *E. pestinia*, *E. pilosa*, and *E. cilianensis*. Frank's Lovegrass can be told from all of them by the combination of erect plants, long-elliptic inflorescences usually one-half the height of the plant, tiny spikelets with only three to five flowers or fruits, and second glumes as long as the lowest lemma.

HABITAT: This species prefers sandy riverbanks and sandbars. In Massachusetts, it has been found only along the Housatonic and Connecticut Rivers.

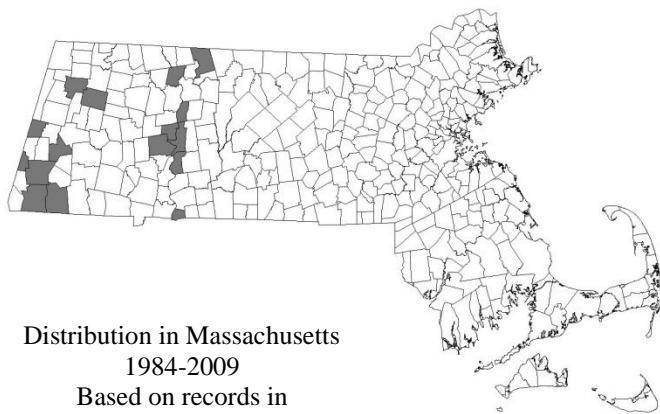


Photo by Bruce Sorrie, NHESP

RANGE: This grass is distributed from Southern New Hampshire to Minnesota, south to Florida, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.

POPULATION STATUS: Frank's Lovegrass is currently listed as a Species of Special Concern in Massachusetts. Eighteen current (1984 to present) occurrences have been verified, and three additional historical occurrences are reported.

Updated 2015

A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan

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Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for 'endangered wildlife conservation' on your state income tax form, as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.

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