



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
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Woodland Millet

Milium effusum L.

State Status: **Threatened**

Federal Status: **None**

Description: *Milium effusum* is a perennial woodland grass. It has a smooth, somewhat succulent, slender stem that grows 3 ½-5 feet (1-1.5 m.) tall. The leaf blades are generally 4-8 inches (10-20 cm.) long and ½-1/2 inches (8-15 mm.) wide. The panicle (flowering part) is sparse-looking, 4-8 inches long with branches which extend outward and carry dropping spikelets. *Milium effusum* is notable for its delicate pastel green color and whitish bloom on the stem. Spikelets can be found from late May to September.

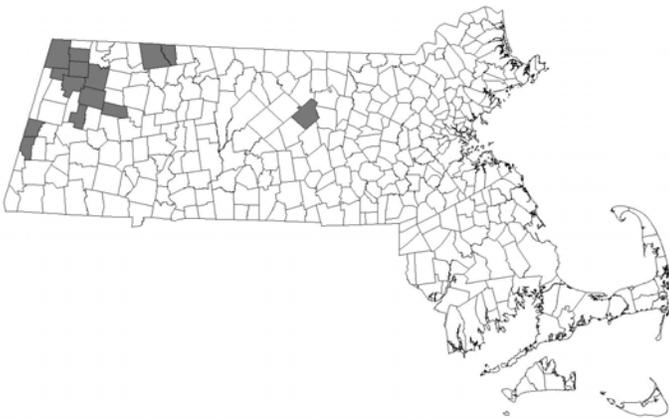
Habitat in Massachusetts: Woodland Millet is typically found on steep slopes in rich, mesic forest communities with calcareous soils. Its microhabitat often includes the drier, rocky upper slopes of the woodland. Commonly associated species include *Fagus grandifolia* (Beech), *Acer saccharum* (Sugar Maple), *Betula papyrifera* (White Birch), *Solidago macrophylla* (Broad-leaved Goldenrod), *Allium tricoccum* (Wild Leek), and *Carex platyphylla* (Broad-leaved Sedge).



Holmgren, Noel H. 1998. *The Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual*. The New York Botanical Garden.

Range: Woodland Millet is distributed from Nova Scotia and Quebec west to Minnesota and south to West Virginia and Illinois.

Population Status: Woodland Millet is currently considered Threatened in Massachusetts. It has probably never been very abundant in Massachusetts and its rarity is in part related to the relatively few steeply sloped mesic forest communities in the state. Except for one, all populations are small, scattered, and vulnerable to disturbance. Twenty-two current occurrences have been documented (1984 to present), and two historical occurrences (prior to 1984) have been recorded.



Distribution in Massachusetts
1984-2009

Based on records in Natural Heritage Database

Updated 20 February 2009