Schizachyrium maritimum - Gulf bluestem
Grass Family (Poaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1/G3G4Q

Range: AL, FL, LA, MS

Recognition:
- Good sized perennial grass of coastal beaches and sand dunes, to 1 m or so tall with inflorescences bearing abundant whitish hairs, appearing beard-like
- Definite long rhizomes (the common and similar S. scoparium is tufted or has short rhizomes)
- Sessile spikelet (spikelets born in pairs, one sessile and one stalked (= pedicillate)) 10 mm long
- Pedicellate spikelet reportedly staminate, 4-8.5 mm long, while that of S. scoparium is ca 2.5 mm long and sterile

Flowering Time: August to November

Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status:
FAC – similar likelihood of occurring in both wetlands and non-wetlands

Habitat:
Coastal dune grasslands and high energy Gulf beaches.

Threats:
- Shoreline erosion
- Construction of roads, pipelines or utilities
- Contamination by chemicals or industrial discharge
- Off-road vehicle use
- Overgrazing

Beneficial Management Practices:
- Shoreline or island stabilization
- Prohibit off-road vehicle use on beaches and sand dunes
- Prohibit livestock grazing
LA River Basins: Pontchartrain, Barataria, Terrebonne

References:


