

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*ACHNATHERUM SCRIBNERI*  
SCRIBNER NEEDLEGRASS

Family: Poaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S1

Range Context: Widespread/Edge

Wyoming Contribution Rank: Low

Description: Scribner needlegrass is a tufted perennial with stems (culms) 25-90 cm tall. Leaf blades are flat or inrolled, long-tapering, up to 30 cm long and 2-5 mm wide.

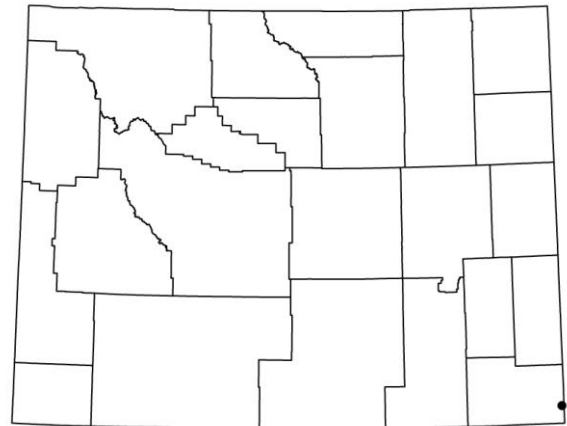
Fragments of old leaves persist at the base of the stem. The collars have tufted, long, tawny hairs. The ligules are irregularly truncate, fringed with hairs and 0.3-1.5 mm long. Spikelets are 1 flowered and arranged in a narrow panicle 7-21 cm long. The lower glumes are 10-17 mm long, exceeding the upper glumes by 2.5-4.5 mm. The lemmas are hairy, with sharp calluses 0.5-1.5 mm, and awns once-twice bent and 13-25 mm long (Cronquist et al. 1977; Flora of North America Editorial Committee 2007; Fertig 1996).

Synonyms: *Stipa scribneri* Vasey.

Similar Species: *Achnatherum robustum* has culms 100-230 cm tall, leaf blades 6-10 mm wide, and usually longer ligules and awns. *Achnatherum nelsonii* and *A. lettermanii* have glabrous or somewhat hairy collars, but without tufted hairs (Dorn 2001; Flora of North America Editorial Committee 2007).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-September.

Distribution: Southeastern Wyoming, Colorado, southern Utah, northeastern Arizona, New Mexico, western Texas, and western Oklahoma. In Wyoming it is known only from the Southeast Plains in Laramie County.



Wyoming distribution of *Achnatherum scribneri*.

Habitat: In Wyoming it occurs in ponderosa pine/Rocky Mountain juniper savannas on slopes and summits of sandstone-limestone ridges at 5200-5300 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a single occurrence in Wyoming, discovered in 1995.

Abundance: Restricted to a small geographic area (no greater than 20 acres). Population size not known.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: Only known occurrence is within a state nature preserve managed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Pine Bluffs Nature area.

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