

June grass

Koeleria macrantha

FEATURES

June grass is also known as crested hair grass. This perennial plant has leaves that tend to twist or spiral as they grow. The leaves may be eight inches long and less than one-fourth inch wide. The small spikes of flowers (spikelets) are densely crowded in narrow heads, about four to five inches in length. Each spikelet has two to four flowers. The fruit is a grain. June grass is a mid-height grass, about two feet tall.

BEHAVIORS

June grass may be found throughout Illinois. It grows in dry to moist prairies and sandy woods. Flowering occurs from June through September. Wind is the main agent of pollination. June grass is an important food source for grazing animals of the prairie.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Liliopsida
Order: Cyperales
Family: Poaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

ILLINOIS RANGE



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Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

hill prairie; sand prairie