

Agrostis pallens Trin., DUNE BENT GRASS. Perennial herb, sometimes rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted, several-stemmed at base and tufted, decumbent and rooting at lower nodes, with ascending to erect inflorescences, in range 30–60 cm long; shoots with 4–7 leaves, glabrous; rhizomes shallow, horizontal, in range < 100 mm long. **Stems (culms):** cylindrical, to 1.5 mm diameter, tough, nodes straight to bent, internodes 3–100 mm long, striped; internodes solid. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; sheath open, 15–80 mm long, mostly > internode, smooth but veiny with to 13 raised veins, margins overlapping most of length, the margins membranous but wider on outer margin, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule erect, membranous, acute to obtuse with several nonciliate teeth or becoming cut, in range 1.3–3+ mm long, minutely scabrous or glabrous on hidden surface; blade linear, in range 30–60 × 0.8–1.5 mm, the widest near base, flat becoming inrolled, minutely scabrous on margins, parallel-veined with veins raised on both surfaces. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal, open panicles, panicle lanceoloid to ovoid or contracted and cylindrical, (40–)100–200 mm long, nodes alternate distichous, having many branches with 5–9 nodes and 1–5 unequal branches per node = a 1-sided arc (verticil), spikelet with 1 floret, bracteate, in range lacking awns; rachis straight, internodes partially concealed at anthesis as branches spread, ± striped (corrugated), glabrous to minutely scabrous; principal branches at anthesis ascending-spreading later widely spreading, generally > 20 mm long with the long branches decreasing approaching top of panicle, green becoming reddish purple, scabrous; stalk of spikelet 0.5–3 mm long, smooth to minutely scabrous. **Spikelet:** = glume length, green to yellowish green becoming tinged with reddish purple, breaking above glumes; **glumes** 2, subequal, narrowly boat-shaped, 2–3.2 mm long, 1-veined, green with membranous margins aging light yellowish tan or purplish red medially, narrowly acute to acuminate or with short point at tip, smooth or minutely scabrous along vein; callus ca. 0.1 × 0.2 mm, with several unequal hairs; rachilla not prolonged beyond palea; **lemma** membranous, 2.1–2.5 mm long, ≤ glumes, 5-veined, minutely 5-toothed at tip, glabrous, persistent around fruit; **palea** absent or to 0.3 mm long, membranous, 3-toothed at tip. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, oblong, 0.2–0.4 mm long, transparent, at anthesis bulbous at base, flattened above bulbous base; **stamens** 3, free; filaments threadlike, 0.5–1.3 mm long, transparent or whitish; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 1.1–1.6 mm long, light yellow to light yellow-orange, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1, 1.1–1.3 mm long; ovary superior, oblanceoloid to obovoid, ca. 0.5–0.6 × 0.25–0.3 mm, pale yellowish green, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, 0.7–1 mm long, colorless, bearing stigmatic hairs base-to-tip, the stigmatic hairs ca. 0.3 mm long at base and gradually shorter approaching tip. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), ellipsoid, ca. 1–1.5 × 0.5 mm, dull grayish brown, with longitudinal groove on side facing palea, rounded or with short point at tip, sometimes with shriveled remnants of styles persisting at tip.

Naturalized. Perennial herb rarely collected in range from wet ditches. *Agrostis pallens* is very similar to *A. exarata* but has longer anthers and is generally rhizomatous. In range, differences in ligule length and lengths of principal lateral branches for the two species do not seem to be reliable to distinguish the two forms.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson