

*Eragrostis pectinacea* (Michx.) Nees var. *pectinacea*, TUFTED LOVE GRASS. Annual, fibrous-rooted, several–many-stemmed at base, cespitose, with ascending to erect inflorescence, in range 10–80 cm tall; shoots lacking glands and glandular pits, mostly glabrous except having long, fine hairs on collar and sometimes upper throat of leaf sheath and pulvini of inflorescence. **Stems (culms):** cylindric, to 2 mm diameter, commonly bent at lower nodes (geniculate), internodes 5–130 mm long and smooth to finely ridged, green aging straw-colored, nodes typically not swollen, glabrous; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with leaf sheath, without stipules; prophyll at base of each shoot 2-keeled, linear-oblong, 10–30 mm long, membranous, glabrous but scabrous along keels; sheath open, 15–50 mm long, veiny-ridged on back, membranous and glabrous on margins or sometimes finely pilose-ciliate on margins near top, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule a band of white hairs 0.2–0.4 mm long; blade lanceolate-linear, in range 55–150 × 1.6–4 mm, the widest near base when fresh becoming inrolled when water-stressed, margin minutely toothed above midblade, long-tapered at tip, parallel-veined, with 3–7 raised veins on lower surface, dull, essentially glabrous except upper surface minutely scabrous and inconspicuously puberulent near ligule. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in open, terminal panicles, panicle ellipsoid to ovoid, 50–200+ × 20–120 mm, lateral branches solitary or paired at the lowest 2 nodes, ascending to spreading, to 85 mm long, many lateral branches often branched, spikelet in range with 6–13 florets, bracteate, lacking awns; axes slender, flexible-wiry, scabrous, glabrous or sparsely hairy to pilose with straight, spreading hairs to 5 mm long on pulvinus at rachis node, greenish, sometimes warty; stalk of spikelet appressed to spreading, 0.7–7 mm long, flexible, sometimes capillary, scabrous on inconspicuous ridges or smooth. **Spikelet:** ± appressed and parallel axis, narrowly lanceoloid to narrowly oblong compressed side-to-side, in range 4–9 × 1.1–1.5 mm, greenish becoming straw-colored or sometimes purplish tinged or ± lead-colored, with rachilla zigzagged, remaining intact and retaining paleas, having glumes abscising and lemma released with fruit; **glumes** 2, ascending, unequal, ovate-lanceolate narrowly acute at tip, lower glume 0.9–1.2 mm long, upper glume 1.2–1.4 mm long, green medially becoming straw-colored or sometimes purplish tinged or ± lead-colored, 1-veined and keeled, keel minutely scabrous; **lemma** ovate-lanceolate and somewhat boat-shaped (slightly keeled approaching tip), 1.1–1.8 mm long, mostly > glumes, green becoming tawny or above midpoint greenish gray to lead-colored or sometimes purple-tinged, acute at tip, 3-veined with veins not converging at tip, smooth or obscurely scabrous along midvein; **palea** 1–1.4 mm long, < lemma, arched, 2-keeled, minutely scabrous along keel, margins strongly folded along keels, acute to rounded or truncate at tip between vein ends. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, club-shaped, minute; **stamens** 3, free, slightly exserted from tip of lemma; filaments threadlike, ca. 1 mm long, translucent-white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.2–0.3 mm long, yellow or initially purple and then visible through lemma, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish to pale yellow; **pistil** 1, ca. 1 mm long; ovary superior, ellipsoid but knobby at tip, ca. 0.3 mm long, glossy translucent-white, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, scarcely exserted, ascending, slender, 0.7–0.8 mm long, translucent-white, stigmatic from midpoint and dendritic. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), falling from spikelet loosely enclosed in lemma, oblongish, in range 0.65–0.9 × 0.3–0.5 mm, mostly dark reddish brown to dark gray-purplish brown, paler and more orangish brown at base over embryo, ± trapezoidal in ×-

section with face by lemma (dorsal) narrower than on side facing palea (ventral), ± flat to slightly convex on ventral face, opaque, faintly striped, stalked from truncate base, the stalk generally whitish, Late May–November.

Native. Annual collected several times in range appearing as a weed in disturbed areas, and has also been collected at the botanical garden in Westwood. *Eragrostis pectinata* is the species in range that lacks glands at the nodes and within the inflorescence. Both varieties may occur in range.

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