Elymus trachycaulus (Link) Gould ex Shinners [Agropyron can inum (L.) P. Beauv., misapplied; A. subsecundum (Link) Hitchc., in part; A. trachycaulum (Link) Malte ex H. F. Lewis]. SLENDER WHEAT GRASS. A transcontinental species with a Canadian, northern Great Plains and far western center of distribution, reaching eastward only into glaciated areas; in Wisconsin common in dry prairies, open woods, bracken grasslands, sand barrens, on cliffs, lakeshores and dunes, and sometimes as a weed on roadsides, railroads and other waste places. (9) Flowering from late June to mid July, fruiting from mid July to late September.

Despite much study, there remains a lack of understanding of the variability and proper infraspecific classification of this polymorphic species. Of the five variants that have been recognized for Wisconsin, ssp. trachycaulus, the characteristic Slender Wheat Grass of the prairie states, is the most common.