American sloughgrass
Beckmannia syzigachne

Minnesota C-Value: 4
Wetland Indicator Status: OBL
Native

Leaves: Up to 12 in. long and 3-10 mm wide, rough to touch along margins. Ligule 5-8 mm; auricles absent.

Stems: 2 ft-4 ft tall. Stems smooth with overlapping sheaths and a distinct ligule.

Flowers and fruit: Flower head 5-10 in. long, lined with many small flattened spikelets that are arranged in 2 tightly packed linear rows. Spikelets are round to ovate in shape. Branches in flower head overlap. Spikes straw-colored when mature.

Plant communities: Shorelines, streambanks, wet meadows, disturbed fields and ditches.

Comments: Annual grass. Very easy to distiguish from other water-loving grasses, given its uniquely structured spikelets and broader leaves. Reed canary grass leaves are narrower than American sloughgrass and its seeds are not in two distinct rows.