DRAFT Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate Species Manual

COLUSA GRASS (NEOSTAPFIA COLUSANA)

Federal/California status: Threatened/Endangered California Native Plant Society List 1B



Description

Colusa grass is an annual member of the grass family (Poaceae). It has several erect and side shoots, with leaves folded around the stem and thick, spike-like tufts on the ends that resemble smalls ears of corn. The plants are 3 to 12 inches (7.5 to 30 cm) tall. Flowering takes place from May through August.

Habitat

The grass only occurs on the adobe mud of large vernal pools along a 98-mile (158 km) stretch of the eastern San Joaquin Valley and the valley trough. It may be associated with hairy Orcutt grass (Orcuttia pilosa) and San Joaquin Valley Orcutt grass (Orcuttia inaequalis).

Range/distribution

Within the project area, it is known to occur in Stanislaus, Yolo, and Merced counties. It was formerly found in Colusa County.

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