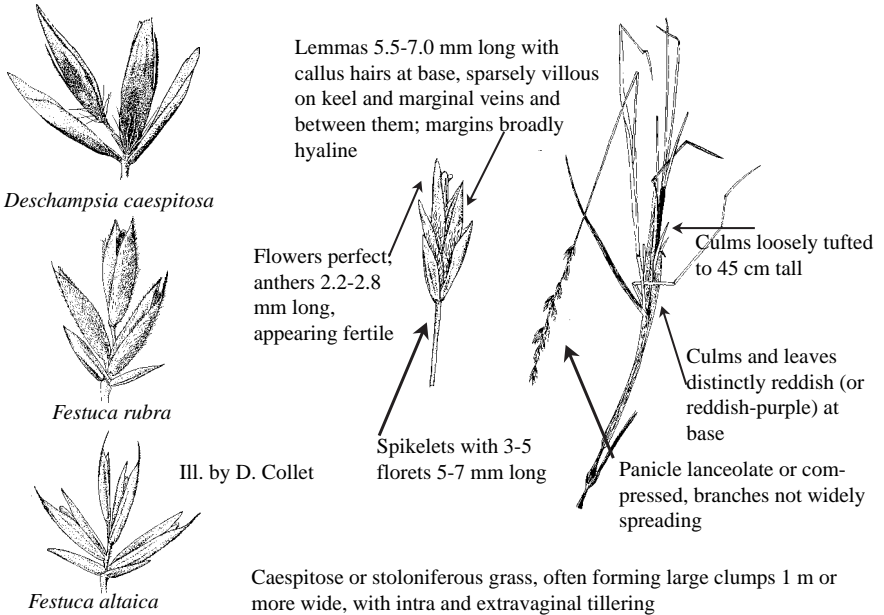


*Poa hartzii* R. Br. ssp. *alaskana*

R. J. Soreng



**Poaceae**

**Distribution:** This bluegrass is endemic to arctic Alaska where it is known from the Meade River and from the eastern Brooks Range near Lake Peters.

**Habitat:** Sparsely vegetated, riparian sands and gravels of the active floodplain, especially point bar deposits, 5 - 50 ft. elevation (3,300 ft. in Brooks Range). Commonly associated species include *Artemisia borealis*, *Festuca rubra*, *Leymus mollis*, and *Rumex graminifolius*.

**Similar Species:** This is the only subspecies of *P. hartzii* known to occur in Alaska. *Poa glauca* Vahl lacks the distinctive reddish bases and has shorter anthers (1.8 - 2.2 mm). Other species of *Poa* found on sandy areas in this region occur singly or as more or less widely spaced tillers, not as large clumps, and lack the distinctive reddish leaf and culm bases. Species of *Deschampsia* and *Festuca*, especially *Festuca altaica* Trin. are found in similar habitats and can be similar in appearance but have awned or awn-pointed lemmas. Subspecies *hartzii* of Canada has early abortive anthers less than 1.5 mm long.

**Notes:** Flowering in July.

**References:** Soreng 1991.



*Closeup of Poa hartzii*  
*photo by R.Lipkin*



*Poa hartzii* habitat

*photo by Jo Overholt*

