



Woodland Sedges of the QC Region

Woodland Carex of the Quad Cities Region Species Profiles

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Presented here are profiles on 28 species of *Carex* found in upland woodlands of the 8-county Quad Cities Region (see map below). These species are characteristic of full to partial shade on dry to mesic fine-textured loams such as those found on bluffs, ridges, slopes, and in ravines. All species are native, and most are relatively conservative to remnant habitats. Scientific name (in italics) with author, common name, section, scientific name meaning as interpreted by Wilhelm & Rericha (2017) and Rothrock (2021), synonyms, habitat, and typical associates are included in each profile. Habitat and associate information are based on my collection data and field notes in the Quad Cities Region from 2022 to present. When contemporary data is sparse or lacking, information from historic specimens is referenced. Specimens were accessed via the Consortium of Midwest Herbarium online portal. In addition, regional county range maps, coefficients of conservatism (C-values), and wetland indicator statuses are presented. The coefficients of conservatism presented here are proposed for the Quad Cities Region based on my experience with them here. See below for a brief explanation of C-values. Wetland indicator statuses are largely in agreement with USACE National Wetland Plant List (2023) scores for the Midwest Region. Where my field experience with these species in the QC Region suggests a different status, it is enclosed in brackets []. The symbol  indicates that a species is known to have its perigynia dispersed by ants, according to Wilhelm & Rericha (2017). On distribution maps, a solid black circle indicates that a specimen exists for the species from the county; an empty circle indicates that I have observed the species from the county; a square indicates that a literature records exists for the species, but no specimen is available; and no circle in a county indicates the species is not documented there. In order to make this document more useful, a list of sedges that may be found in transition zones of upland woodlands and other communities is provided after the species profiles.



This resource is meant to be used in conjunction with dichotomous keys such as those found in Flora of North America Online (Ball and Reznicek, 2003), Mohlenbrock (2011 & 2014), Norris (unpublished), Rothrock (2021), and Wilhelm and Rericha (2017).

The floristic quality assessment system, as described by Taft et. al. (1997), is based on the tenets that “plant species differ in their tolerance to disturbance and disturbance types, and that plant species display varying degrees of fidelity to habitat integrity.” Thus, each species in a state’s or region’s flora can be assigned a coefficient, or C-value, ranging from 0 to 10 to express its observed behavior and dependence on remnant conditions. Non-native species as well as natives that thrive with contemporary human disturbance are designated 0 (i.e. common dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*), while species that are restricted to intact, high-quality natural areas are given a 10 (i.e. showy lady’s slipper, *Cypripedium reginae*).

Table 1. Plant wetland indicator statuses (Lichvar, et al. 2012)

Category	Category Abbreviation	Definition
Obligate Wetland	OBL	Almost always occurs in wetlands under natural conditions (estimated probability > 99%)
Facultative Wetland	FACW	Usually occurs in wetlands (estimated probability 67% – 99%), but occasionally found in non-wetlands (estimated probability 1% – 33%)
Facultative	FAC	Equally likely to occur in wetlands and non-wetlands (estimated probability 34% – 66%)
Facultative Upland	FACU	Usually occurs in non-wetlands (estimated probability 67% – 99%), but occasionally found in wetlands (estimated probability 1% – 33%)
Upland	UPL	Almost always occurs in non-wetlands under natural conditions (estimated probability > 99%)

Carex aggregata Mack. Smooth Clustered Sedge

Sect. Phaestoglochin

From Latin: clustered

Synonym: *Carex sparganioides* Muhl. ex Willd. var. *aggregata* (Mack.) Gleason

C = 4 [FACU]



This is a common sedge of mesic woodlands along streams and rivers and disturbed, open ground. Along Crow Creek in Bettendorf, Scott County, it occurs in a rich, mesic woodland with *Ageratina altissima*, *Carex blanda*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Circaea canadensis*, *Dicentra cucullaria*, *Hydrophyllum virginianum*, *Mertensia virginica*, *Osmorhiza longistylis*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Phryma leptostachya*, *Polemonium reptans*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Prunus serotina*, *Quercus rubra*, *Ribes missouriense*, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Tilia americana*, and *Viburnum lentago*. At Land of the Swamp White Oak Preserve in Muscatine County, this species occurs in mesic floodplain savanna-woodland complexes with *Allium canadense*, *Antenoron virginianum*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex conjuncta*, *Carex davisii*, *Carex grayi*, *Carex grisea*, *Carex jamesii*, *Carex leavenworthii*, *Carex radiata*, *Carex sprengelii*, *Carya cordiformis*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Cercis canadensis*, *Chaerophyllum procumbens*, *Clematis pitcheri*, *Cornus drummondii*, *Crataegus crus-galli*, *Crataegus margarettae*, *Crataegus mollis*, *Enemion biternatum*, *Gleditsia triacanthos*, *Gymnocladus dioicus*, *Juglans nigra*, *Mertensia virginica*, *Packera plattensis*, *Phlox divaricata*, *Poa sylvestris*, *Quercus bicolor*, *Quercus macrocarpa*, *Quercus palustris*, *Quercus rubra*, *Sanicula canadensis*, *Ulmus americana*, and *Viola missouriensis*. It also occurs in my backyard with *Carex blanda*, *Elymus repens*, *Erigeron philadelphicus*, *Glechoma hederacea*, *Poa pratensis*, *Schedonorus arundinaceus*, *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*, and *Viola sororia*. Guldner did not report *Carex aggregata* in his 1960 publication on the vascular flora of Scott and Muscatine Counties, though several of his specimens have been annotated as this species by Zager & Norris. BONAP reports it from Cedar County, although specimens cannot be found.

Carex albicans Willd. ex Spreng.

White-tinged Sedge

Sect. Acrosystis

From Latin: whitish

Synonyms: *Carex artitecta* Mack., *Carex varia* Muhl. ex Wahlenb.

C = 8 UPL 



This sedge's presence in our region is questionable. Dobbs (1963) reports it from Henry County from "along railroad tracks in section 13, Edford Township, May 6, 1937." No other sources support it occurring in Henry County, and no supporting specimens can be found. Nonetheless, it is not unexpected in the Quad Cities Region and may indeed occur here. It is more common to our south and east while being rare to our north in Carroll and Jo Daviess counties, IL. In Carroll County, it grows on a steep, dry to dry-mesic northwest facing slope above a dolomite cliff in thin woods with *Acer saccharum*, *Besseyia bullii*, *Carex eburnea*, *Carex pensylvanica*, *Carex rosea*, *Carex sprengelii*, *Carex blanda*, *Dodecatheon amethystinum*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Galium aparine*, *Galium concinnum*, *Juniperus virginiana*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Populus grandidentata*, *Quercus rubra*, *Smilacina racemosa*, and *Tilia americana*. In Jo Daviess County, it grows on a steep, rocky west facing slope below a dolomite cliff adjacent to talus with *Ageratina altissima*, *Aquilegia canadensis*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Dicentra cucullaria*, *Elymus villosus*, *Euonymus atropurpureus*, *Lonicera reticulata*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Prunus virginiana*, *Solidago flexicaulis*, *Solidago ulmifolia*, *Tilia americana*, and *Ulmus americana*.

Carex albursina Sheldon

White Bear Sedge

Sect. Laxiflorae

From Latin: white bear; discovered at White Bear lake, Minnesota in 1890.

Synonym: *Carex laxiflora* var. *latifolia* Boott

C = 7 UPL



This species is characteristic of rich, mesic forests on north-facing slopes and in ravines. Associates include *Acer saccharum*, *Actaea pachypoda*, *Adiantum pedatum*, *Aralia racemosa*, *Arisaema triphyllum*, *Asarum reflexum*, *Cardamine concatenata*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex copulata*, *Carex hirtifolia*, *Carex jamesii*, *Carex rosea*, *Carya cordiformis*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Circaea canadensis*, *Claytonia virginica*, *Cryptotaenia canadensis*, *Cystopteris protrusa*, *Erythronium albidum*, *Dicentra cucullaria*, *Hepatica acutiloba*, *Hydrophyllum virginianum*, *Laportea canadensis*, *Menispermum canadense*, *Osmorhiza longistylis*, *Phlox divaricata*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Quercus rubra*, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Smilacina racemosa*, *Smilax ecirrhata*, *Solidago flexicaulis*, *Tilia americana*, *Trillium recurvatum*, *Ulmus americana*, *Uvularia grandiflora*, *Viola eriocarpa*, and *Viola sororia*. We are currently without a Scott County record, though it likely occurs there.

Carex blanda Dewey

Common Wood Sedge

Sect. Laxiflorae

From Latin: smooth, mild, alluring

Synonym: *Carex laxiflora* var. *blanda* (Dewey) Boott

C = 2 FAC



This is perhaps the weediest sedge of our region. It occurs in a broad range of habitats and is highly tolerant of disturbance. It grows in lawns, roadsides, prairies, and dry-mesic to wet-mesic woodlands. In lawns it associates with *Duchesnea indica*, *Glechoma hederacea*, *Muhlenbergia schreberi*, *Poa pratensis*, *Taraxacum officinale*, *Trifolium repens*, and *Viola sororia*. In dry-mesic to mesic upland woodlands it commonly associates with *Ageratina altissima*, *Alliaria petiolata*, *Carex grisea*, *Carex jamesii*, *Carex rosea*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Circaea canadensis*, *Cryptotaenia canadensis*, *Galium aparine*, *Galium triflorum*, *Geum canadense*, *Hackelia virginiana*, *Osmorhiza longistylis*, *Oxalis stricta*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Phryma leptostachya*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Prunus serotina*, *Quercus rubra*, *Quercus alba*, *Ranunculus abortivus*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Smilacina racemosa*, *Smilax hispida*, *Symphotrichum lateriflorum*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Trillium recurvatum*, and *Ulmus americana*.

Carex cephaloidea (Dewey) Dewey

Rough Clustered Sedge

Sect. Phaestoglochin

From Greek: appearance of a head

Synonym: *Carex sparganioides* var. *cephaloidea* (Dewey)

J. Carey

C = 6 FACU



This is an occasional species of dry-mesic to mesic woodlands, typically along streams. In a dry-mesic woodland in Milan, Rock Island County, it associates with *Ageratina altissima*, *Antenoron virginianum*, *Carya cordiformis*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Circaea canadensis*, *Cryptotaenia canadensis*, *Galium aparine*, *Hylodesmum glutinosum*, *Prunus serotina*, *Quercus macrocarpa*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Tilia americana*, *Viola eriocarpa*, and *Zanthoxylum americanum*. In the same county at Black Hawk Forest Nature Preserve it grows in rich, mesic alluvial woodland along a perennial stream with *Asarum reflexum*, *Carex davisii*, *Carex grisea*, *Carya ovata*, *Celastrus orbiculatus*, *Circaea canadensis*, *Cornus alternifolia*, *Cryptotaenia canadensis*, *Festuca subverticillata*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Fraxinus nigra*, *Galium triflorum*, *Hylodesmum glutinosum*, *Menispermum canadense*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Phlox divaricata*, *Quercus rubra*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Smilax hispida*, *Solidago flexicaulis*, *Symphotrichum lateriflorum*, *Symphotrichum shortii*, *Tilia americana*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Ulmus americana*, and *Verbesina alternifolia*. Fay (1951) reports the species as "Rare" in "moist sandy soil" from Cedar County; Guldner (1960) supports this record. There is an 1890 collection by Edith Ross from Scott County, and a 1956 collection from Clinton County by T. S. Cooperrider from "open grassy upland woods." BONAP reports this species from Whiteside County, but no specimen or supporting records can be located.

Carex cephalophora Muhl. ex Willd.

Oval-headed Sedge

Sect. Phaestoglochin

From Greek: head on a pole

C = 4 [UPL]



This is a common sedge of dry to mesic woodlands. Typical associates in dry to dry-mesic woodlands include *Ageratina altissima*, *Agrimonia pubescens*, *Amelanchier arborea*, *Anemone virginiana*, *Antennaria plantaginifolia*, *Apocynum androsaemifolium*, *Boechera laevigata*, *Carex hirsutella*, *Carex pensylvanica*, *Carex rosea*, *Danthonia spicata*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Galium circaezans hypomalacum*, *Galium concinnum*, *Helianthus strumosus*, *Hylodesmum glutinosum*, *Lespedeza frutescens*, *Nabalus albus*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Potentilla simplex*, *Prunus serotina*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus velutina*, *Solidago ulmifolia*, *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*, *Symphyotrichum shortii*, *Symphyotrichum urophyllum*, and *Thalictrum thalictroides*. In mesic woodlands associates include *Acer saccharum*, *Actaea pachypoda*, *Amphicarpaea bracteata*, *Antenoron virginianum*, *Arisaema triphyllum*, *Asarum reflexum*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex grisea*, *Carex hirtifolia*, *Carex oligocarpa*, *Carex rosea*, *Carya cordiformis*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Circaea canadensis*, *Cystopteris protrusa*, *Festuca subverticillata*, *Galium triflorum*, *Geranium maculatum*, *Hackelia virginiana*, *Menispermum canadense*, *Osmorhiza longistylis*, *Phlox divaricata*, *Podophyllum peltatum*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus macrocarpa*, *Quercus rubra*, *Ribes missouriense*, *Scutellaria ovata*, *Solidago flexicaulis*, *Solidago ulmifolia*, *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*, *Symphyotrichum shortii*, *Tilia americana*, *Trillium recurvatum*, *Ulmus americana*, *Viola eriocarpa*, and *Viola sororia*. There are currently no records from Whiteside County, though it doubtlessly occurs there.

Carex communis L.H. Bailey

Common Beech Sedge

Sect. Acrosystis

From Latin: gregarious

C = 10 UPL 



This eastern forest sedge reaches the western edge of its range in our region. Extant populations are restricted to the Andalusia Gorge area of Rock Island and Muscatine Counties where it occurs in high-quality remnant dry-mesic to mesic forests that developed on sandy loams derived from the underlying Caseyville sandstone. In Muscatine County in rich dry-mesic to mesic upland forest, it associates with *Acer saccharum*, *Adiantum pedatum*, *Aralia nudicaulis*, *Carex albursina*, *Carex pensylvanica*, *Claytonia virginica*, *Goodyera pubescens*, *Hepatica acutiloba*, *Luzula acuminata*, *Osmorhiza longistylis*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Pinus strobus*, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, *Potentilla simplex*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus rubra*, *Smilacina racemosa*, *Solidago flexicaulis*, *Thalictrum thalictroides*, and *Uvularia grandiflora*. In Rock Island County in similar situations, it associates with *Acer saccharum*, *Antenoron virginianum*, *Asarum acuminatum*, *Boechera laevigata*, *Botrypus virginianus*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex hitchcockiana*, *Carex jamesii*, *Carex oligocarpa*, *Carex rosea*, *Carya cordiformis*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Circaea canadensis*, *Cystopteris protrusa*, *Dicentra cucullaria*, *Festuca subverticillata*,

Galium circaeans hypomalacum, *Lactuca floridana*, *Hamamelis virginiana*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Phlox divaricata*, *Phryma leptostachya*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, *Prunus virginiana*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus muehlenbergii*, *Quercus rubra*, *Sanicula canadensis*, *Sanicula trifoliata*, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, *Scutellaria ovata*, *Smilacina racemosa*, *Solidago flexicaulis*, *Symphyotrichum cordifolium*, *Symphyotrichum shortii*, *Tilia americana*, and *Viola sororia*. There is a specimen from Port Byron, Rock Island County collected by E. T. Harper in May of 1884. A 2002 botanical survey of the Wapsi River corridor in Clinton and Scott counties conducted by Bonestroo & Associates reported *Carex communis* as “rare” in dry-mesic oak sand forest at Sherman Park, Clinton County, but no specimen can be located.

Carex copulata (L.H.Bailey) Mack.

Green Wood Sedge

Sect. Careyanae

From Latin: linked together

Synonym: *Carex laxiculmis* var. *copulata* (L.H.Bailey) Fernald

C = 8 UPL 



This is an uncommon sedge of rich dry-mesic to mesic forests.

Typical associates include *Acer saccharum*, *Adiantum pedatum*, *Arisaema triphyllum*, *Asarum reflexum*, *Athyrium angustum*, *Cardamine concatenata*, *Carex albursina*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex grisea*, *Carex hitchcockiana*, *Carex jamesii*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Claytonia virginica*, *Cystopteris protrusa*, *Dicentra cucullaria*, *Erythronium album*, *Festuca subverticillata*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Geranium maculatum*, *Hepatica acutiloba*, *Hydrophyllum virginianum*, *Laportea canadensis*, *Panax quinquefolius*, *Phlox divaricata*, *Poa sylvestris*, *Podophyllum peltatum*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus rubra*, *Smilacina racemosa*, *Tilia americana*, *Trillium recurvatum*, *Ulmus americana*, *Viola eriocarpa*, and *Viola sororia*.

Carex davisii Schwein. & Torr.

Awned Graceful Sedge

Sect. Hymenochlaenae

Named after Emerson Davis (1798-1866)

C = 4 FAC



This is a common species of mesic upland and mesic to wet-mesic alluvial woodlands. Associates in mesic upland

woodlands include *Acer saccharum*, *Amphicarpaea bracteata*, *Antenoron virginianum*, *Arisaema triphyllum*, *Asarum reflexum*, *Athyrium angustum*, *Boechera dentata*, *Campanulastrum americanum*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex grisea*, *Carex hirtifolia*, *Carex jamesii*, *Carex sprengelii*, *Carya cordiformis*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Cryptotaenia canadensis*, *Elymus villosus*, *Elymus virginicus*, *Eutrochium purpureum*, *Festuca subverticillata*, *Galium triflorum*, *Leersia virginica*, *Menispermum canadense*, *Phryma leptostachya*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus rubra*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Solidago flexicaulis*, *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*, *Symphyotrichum shortii*, *Tilia americana*, *Trillium recurvatum*, *Viola eriocarpa*, and *Viola sororia*. Additional associates in mesic to wet-mesic alluvial woodlands include *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Carex cristatella*, *Carex grayi*, *Carex stipata*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Gleditsia triacanthos*, *Laportea canadensis*, *Quercus palustris*, *Ranunculus*

septentrionalis, *Symphyotrichum ontarionis*, *Teucrium canadense*, *Ulmus americana*, and *Verbesina alternifolia*.

Carex eburnea Boott

Ebony Sedge

Sect. *Albae*

From Latin: of ivory; potentially an allusion to the off-white colored pistillate scales.

C = 10 [UPL]

This species was collected from Clinton County in 1878 by G. D. Butler. Fay (1951) and Guldner (1960) report it from Cedar County from “dry limestone ledges along Rock Creek, 2 miles north of Rochester,” but the specimen has not been located. There are no contemporary records from our region. It occurs to our north in Jackson County, IA and Carroll and Jo Daviess counties, IL in similar habitats. In Carroll and Jo Daviess counties, it frequently associates with *Amelanchier humilis*, *Aquilegia canadensis*, *Carex pensylvanica*, *Carex sprengelii*, *Juniperus virginiana*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Prunus virginiana*, *Ribes cynosbati*, and *Solidago ulmifolia* on dry, south to west facing dolomite cliff ledges.



Carex gracilescens Steud.

Slender Wood Sedge

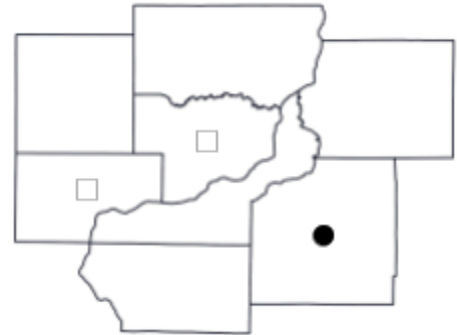
Sect. *Laxiflorae*

From Latin: becoming slender

Synonym: *Carex laxiflora* var. *gracillima* Boott

C = 7 UPL

This sedge is currently historic from our region, though it likely persists here unnoticed. Guldner (1960) reports it from “dry woods and thickets; rare.” He cites specimens from Credit Island, Scott County and Wild Cat Den, Muscatine County, though these specimens cannot be found. Dobbs (1963) reports this species from “rich moist woodland” along the Rock River in Henry County.



Carex gracillima Schwein.

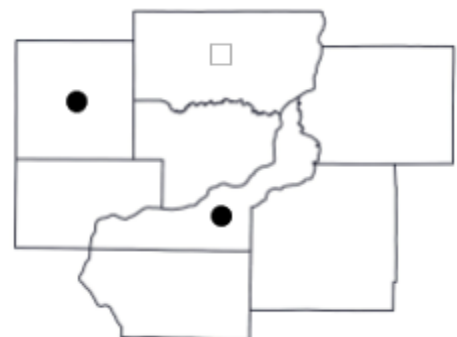
Purple-sheathed Graceful Sedge

Sect. *Hymenochlaenae*

From Latin: most slender

C = 9 FACU

This is another historic species from our region. There is a 1952 collection by R. F. Thorne from Cedar County, and a 1890 collection by Edith A. Ross from Rock Island County. A 2002 botanical survey of the Wapsi River corridor in Clinton and Scott counties conducted by Bonestroo & Associates reported *Carex gracillima* as “occasional” in dry-mesic oak sand forest at Sherman Park, Clinton County, but apparently no specimen exists from this location.



Carex granularis Muhl. ex Willd.

Pale Sedge

Sect. Granulares

From Latin: like a small grain

C = 3 [FAC]



This sedge occurs in dry-mesic to wet-mesic woodlands and in open, moist ground of floodplains. Associates in dry-mesic to mesic woodland at Black Hawk Forest Nature Preserve include *Acer saccharum*, *Actaea pachypoda*, *Amphicarpaea bracteata*, *Antenoron virginianum*, *Arisaema triphyllum*, *Asarum reflexum*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex cephalophora*, *Carex hirtifolia*, *Carex rosea*, *Carya cordiformis*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Cystopteris protrusa*, *Dioscorea villosa*, *Festuca subverticillata*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Galium circaezans hypomalacum*, *Galium concinnum*, *Galium triflorum*, *Geranium maculatum*, *Hackelia virginiana*, *Hylodesmum glutinosum*, *Nabalus albus*, *Osmorhiza longistylis*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Phlox divaricata*, *Podophyllum peltatum*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus rubra*, *Ribes missouriense*, *Scutellaria ovata*, *Smilax hispida*, *Solidago flexicaulis*, *Solidago ulmifolia*, *Symphytotrichum shortii*, *Thalictrum thalictroides*, *Tilia americana*, *Trillium recurvatum*, *Ulmus americana*, *Viola eriocarpa*, and *Viola sororia*. In mesic to wet-mesic soils of floodplains adjacent to marshes, native associates include *Acer saccharinum*, *Apios americana*, *Apocynum cannabinum*, *Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*, *Calystegia sepium*, *Carex annectens*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex conjuncta*, *Carex grisea*, *Carex molesta*, *Carex vulpinoidea*, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, *Cornus obliqua*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Salix nigra*, *Sambucus canadensis*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, and *Vitis riparia*. Var. *haleana* is reported from all four counties. Mohlenbrock (2011 & 2014) raises this variety to species status as *Carex haleana* Olney.

Carex grisea Wahlenb.

Inflated Gray Sedge

Sect. Griseae

From Latin: gray

Synonym: *Carex amphibola* var. *turgida* Fernald

C = 3 FAC



This common species occurs in dry-mesic to mesic upland woodlands, mesic to wet floodplain forests, as well as lawns and disturbed ground. It is rather tolerant of disturbance. In an open mesic to wet-mesic floodplain woodland along the Mississippi River in Rock Island County, associates include *Acer negundo*, *Betula nigra*, *Cardamine bulbosa*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex jamesii*, *Carex stipata*, *Cornus obliqua*, *Cryptotaenia canadensis*, *Elymus virginicus*, *Fraxinus lanceolata*, *Juglans nigra*, *Laportea canadensis*, *Phalaris arundinacea*, *Ranunculus abortivus*, *Salix nigra*, *Sambucus canadensis*, *Smilax hispida*, *Solidago altissima*, *Symphytotrichum lateriflorum*, *Teucrium canadense*, *Thalictrum dasycarpum*, and *Vitis riparia*. Typical associates in dry-mesic to mesic upland woodlands include *Acer saccharum*, *Ageratina altissima*, *Alliaria petiolata*, *Antenoron virginianum*, *Campanulastrum americanum*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex rosea*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Claytonia virginica*, *Cryptotaenia canadensis*, *Dicentra cucullaria*, *Festuca subverticillata*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Galium circaezans hypomalacum*, *Geum canadense*, *Juglans nigra*, *Laportea canadensis*, *Oxalis stricta*, *Phlox divaricata*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Quercus alba*,

Quercus rubra, *Sanicula odorata*, *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*, *Tilia americana*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Trillium recurvatum*, *Ulmus americana*, *Viola eriocarpa*, and *Viola sororia*.

Guldner (1960) reports *Carex amphibola* Steud., a sister species of *Carex grisea*, from Credit Island, Scott County. BONAP also reports it from Scott County, but Flora of North America and Eilers and Roosa (1994) do not recognize this species as occurring in Iowa. I have not seen any material from our region referable to *Carex amphibola*, which is found more commonly to our south and east.

Carex hirsutella Mack.

Fuzzy Wuzzy Sedge

Sect. Porocystis

From Latin: Minutely hairy

Synonyms: *Carex complanata* var. *hirsuta* (Raf.) Gleason,

Carex triceps var. *hirsuta* (Raf.) L.H.Bailey

C = 5 UPL



This is a rare sedge in our region found in high-quality dry to dry-mesic upland woodlands and prairie remnants. It is more common to our south and east where it can be weedy and rather tolerant of disturbance. In dry to dry-mesic open woodlands in Rock Island County, associates include *Agrimonia pubescens*, *Amelanchier arborea*, *Amphicarpaea bracteata*, *Antennaria plantaginifolia*, *Apocynum androsaemifolium*, *Asclepias quadrifolia*, *Bromus pubescens*, *Carex normalis*, *Carex pensylvanica*, *Carex rosea*, *Carya ovata*, *Comandra umbellata*, *Coreopsis palmata*, *Cornus drummondii*, *Corylus americana*, *Danthonia spicata*, *Dioscorea villosa*, *Erigeron pulchellus*, *Eutrochium purpureum*, *Festuca subverticillata*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Galium circaeans*, *hypomalacum*, *Galium concinnum*, *Helianthus strumosus*, *Hylodesmum glutinosum*, *Hypoxis hirsuta*, *Krigia biflora*, *Lespedeza frutescens*, *Nabalus alba*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Oxalis violacea*, *Potentilla simplex*, *Prunus serotina*, *Quercus alba*, *Solidago ulmifolia*, *Symphyotrichum shortii*, *Symphyotrichum urophyllum*, *Tradescantia ohiensis*, *Ulmus rubra*, and *Veronicastrum virginicum*. It also occurs in a roadside prairie remnant in Rock Island County with *Andropogon gerardii*, *Baptisia lactea*, *Cornus drummondii*, *Danthonia spicata*, *Euphorbia corollata*, *Gentiana alba*, *Juniperus virginiana*, *Lespedeza capitata*, *Liatris aspera* var. *intermedia*, *Monarda fistulosa*, *Potentilla simplex*, *Pycnanthemum pilosum*, *Rosa carolina*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Silphium integrifolium*, *Solidago nemoralis*, *Solidago rigida*, and *Symphyotrichum ericoides*.

Carex hirtifolia Mack.

Hairy Wood Sedge

Sect. Hirtifoliae

From Latin: hairy-leaved

Synonym: *Carex pubescens* Muhl. ex Willd

C = 6 UPL



This sedge is common in dry-mesic to mesic upland woodlands.

Common associates in dry-mesic to mesic woodlands include

Acer saccharum, *Actaea pachypoda*, *Amphicarpaea bracteata*, *Antenoron virginianum*, *Arisaema triphyllum*, *Asarum reflexum*, *Brachyelytrum erectum*, *Cardamine concatenata*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex*

oligocarpa, *Carex pensylvanica*, *Carex rosea*, *Carya cordiformis*, *Circaea canadensis*, *Claytonia virginica*, *Cystopteris protrusa*, *Dicentra cucullaria*, *Erythronium albidum*, *Eutrochium purpureum*, *Festuca subverticillata*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Galium circaezans* var. *hypomalacum*, *Galium concinnum*, *Galium triflorum*, *Geranium maculatum*, *Hepatica acutiloba*, *Hydrophyllum virginianum*, *Laportea canadensis*, *Menispermum canadense*, *Nabalus albus*, *Phlox divaricata*, *Phryma leptostachya*, *Poa sylvestris*, *Podophyllum peltatum*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Quercus rubra*, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Smilacina racemosa*, *Smilax ecirrhata*, *Solidago flexicaulis*, *Solidago ulmifolia*, *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*, *Symphyotrichum shortii*, *Thalictrum thalictroides*, *Tilia americana*, *Trillium recurvatum*, *Ulmus americana*, *Viola eriocarpa*, and *Viola sororia*.

Carex hitchcockiana Dewey

Hairy Gray Sedge

Sect. Griseae

Named after Edward Hitchcock (1793-1864)

C = 9 UPL



This is an uncommon species restricted to rich, mesic forests such as those on north-facing slopes and in ravines.

Characteristic associates in Rock Island County include *Acer saccharum*, *Actaea pachypoda*, *Adiantum pedatum*, *Allium burdickii*, *Antenoron virginianum*, *Arisaema triphyllum*, *Asarum reflexum*, *Athyrium angustum*, *Boechera dentata*, *Cardamine concatenata*, *Carex albursina*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex grisea*, *Carex jamesii*, *Carex rosea*, *Carya cordiformis*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Circaea canadensis*, *Cryptotaenia canadensis*, *Cystopteris protrusa*, *Dioscorea villosa*, *Festuca subverticillata*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Fraxinus nigra*, *Galium triflorum*, *Geranium maculatum*, *Hepatica acutiloba*, *Hydrastis canadensis*, *Hydrophyllum virginianum*, *Hylodesmum glutinosum*, *Laportea canadensis*, *Lilium michiganense*, *Osmorhiza longistylis*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Panax quinquefolius*, *Phlox divaricata*, *Podophyllum peltatum*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Quercus rubra*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Solidago flexicaulis*, *Symphyotrichum shortii*, *Tilia americana*, *Ulmus americana*, *Uvularia grandiflora*, *Verbesina alternifolia*, *Viola eriocarpa*, and *Viola sororia*. Guldner (1960) reports it from Scott County at Credit Island in "low woods," as well as at Hickory Grove in "upland woods."

Carex jamesii Schwein.

Grass Sedge

Sect. Phyllostachyae

Named after Edwin James (1797-1861)

C = 4 UPL



This is a common species of dry-mesic to mesic upland woodlands. It tends to reach peak abundance in mesic woodlands along streams. Common associates in mesic

woodlands include *Acer saccharum*, *Ageratina altissima*, *Antenoron virginianum*, *Asarum reflexum*, *Arisaema triphyllum*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex cephalophora*, *Carex copulata*, *Carex grisea*, *Carex hirtifolia*, *Carex rosea*, *Carya cordiformis*, *Carya ovata*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Circaea canadensis*, *Cryptotaenia canadensis*, *Cystopteris protrusa*, *Dicentra cucullaria*, *Festuca subverticillata*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Galium aparine*, *Galium triflorum*, *Juglans nigra*, *Osmorhiza longistylis*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Phlox*

divaricata, *Phryma leptostachya*, *Poa sylvestris*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus rubra*, *Ribes missouriense*, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, *Sanicula canadensis*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Smilacina racemosa*, *Solidago ulmifolia*, *Symphyotrichum shortii*, *Tilia americana*, *Trillium recurvatum*, *Ulmus americana*, and *Viola sororia*.

Carex leavenworthii Dewey

Dwarf Bracted Sedge

Sect. *Phaestoglochin*

Named after Melines C. Leavenworth (1796-1862)

C = 3 FACU



This is a somewhat weedy sedge that occurs in dry-mesic to mesic woodlands, as well as disturbed, open ground.

Associates in degraded dry-mesic woodlands include *Ageratina altissima*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex hirtifolia*, *Carya ovata*, *Celastrus orbiculatus*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Cornus drummondii*, *Erigeron annuus*, *Galium circaezans* var. *hypomalacum*, *Lactuca floridana*, *Lonicera maackii*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Prunus serotina*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus macrocarpa*, *Quercus velutina*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Smilacina racemosa*, *Solidago ulmifolia*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Trillium recurvatum*, and *Vitis riparia*. In moist, open ground such as along roads and parking lots in floodplains, associates include *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, *Artemisia vulgaris*, *Calystegia sepium*, *Carex annectens*, *Carex molesta*, *Carex vulpinoidea*, *Conyza canadensis*, *Erigeron annuus*, *Galium aparine*, *Geranium carolinianum*, *Hordeum jubatum*, *Hordeum pusillum*, *Lysimachia nummularia*, *Matricaria discoidea*, *Medicago lupulina*, *Packera plattensis*, *Phalaris arundinacea*, *Plantago rugelii*, *Poa pratensis*, and *Taraxacum officinale*. It also occurs commonly in mesic floodplain woodland and savanna complexes at Land Of the Swamp White Oak Preserve in Muscatine County. See the *Carex aggregata* profile for associates at that location.

Carex normalis Mack.

Spreading Oval Sedge

Sect. *Cyperoidea*

From Latin: according to the rule or carpenter's square

C = 5 [UPL]



This common to occasional species primarily occurs in open dry-mesic to mesic woodlands and on woodland edges. Typical associates in dry-mesic to mesic oak woodlands include

Ageratina altissima, *Agrimonia gryposepala*, *Amphicarpaea bracteata*, *Antenoron virginianum*, *Arisaema triphyllum*, *Asarum reflexum*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex cephalophora*, *Carex grisea*, *Carex hirtifolia*, *Carex jamesii*, *Carex rosea*, *Carex sparganioides*, *Carya cordiformis*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Circaea canadensis*, *Dioscorea villosa*, *Elymus villosus*, *Eutrochium purpureum*, *Festuca subverticillata*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Galium circaezans* *hypomalacum*, *Galium concinnum*, *Galium triflorum*, *Geranium maculatum*, *Geum canadense*, *Hylodesmum glutinosum*, *Menispermum canadense*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Phryma leptostachya*, *Phlox divaricata*, *Prunus serotina*, *Podophyllum peltatum*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus macrocarpa*, *Quercus rubra*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Smilax ecirrhata*, *Solidago flexicaulis*, *Solidago ulmifolia*, *Tilia americana*, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*,

Symphyotrichum shortii, *Thalictrum thalictroides*, *Trillium recurvatum*, *Ulmus americana*, *Viola eriocarpa*, and *Viola sororia*.

Carex oligocarpa Schkuhr ex Willd.

Few-fruited Gray Sedge

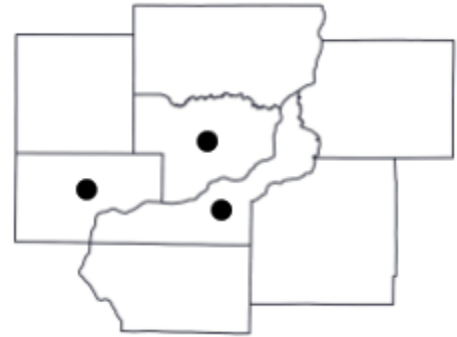
Sect. Griseae

From Greek: few-fruited

C = 7 UPL 

This species is occasional in dry-mesic to mesic woodlands.

Typical associates in dry-mesic woodlands include *Agrimonia pubescens*, *Amphicarpaea bracteata*, *Antennaria virginiana*, *Arisaema triphyllum*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex grisea*, *Carex hirtifolia*, *Carex rosea*, *Carex sparganioides*, *Claytonia virginica*, *Festuca subverticillata*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Galium concinnum*, *Hylodesmum glutinosum*, *Phryma leptostachya*, *Podophyllum peltatum*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Prunus serotina*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus rubra*, *Quercus velutina*, *Ribes missouriense*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Solidago ulmifolia*, *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*, *Symphyotrichum shortii*, *Thalictrum thalictroides*, *Trillium recurvatum*, and *Viola eriocarpa*.



Carex pedunculata Muhl. ex Willd.

Long-stalked Tussock Sedge

Sect. Clandestine

From Latin: peduncled

C = 10 [UPL] 

The only specimen of this species from our region was collected by G. D. Butler in Clinton, Clinton County on April 18th, 1878. It has not been documented here since. To our northeast in Ogle County, IL, it occurs on the crest of a north-facing dolomite cliff above Pine Creek at White Pines Forest State Park where it associates with *Hepatica acutiloba*, *Juniperus virginiana*, *Polemonium reptans*, *Quercus alba*, *Taxus canadensis*, *Tilia americana*, and a large colony of *Trillium nivale*,



Carex pensylvanica Lam.

Common Oak Sedge; "Penn" Sedge

Sect. Acrosystis

Named after the state of Pennsylvania

C = 5 UPL 

This species is one of the most ecologically significant sedges

of upland woodlands in our region. It forms large contiguous

lawns on the upper slopes and ridges of dry to dry-mesic upland

woodlands where sunlight is ample. Associates in dry to dry-mesic woodlands include *Ageratina altissima*, *Amphicarpaea bracteata*, *Antennaria plantaginifolia*, *Botrypus virginianus*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex cephalophora*, *Carex normalis*, *Carex rosea*, *Carya ovata*, *Claytonia virginica*, *Cornus*



Carex radiata (Wahlenb.) Small
Straight-styled Wood Sedge

Carex rosea Schkuhr ex Willd.
Rosy Sedge

dry-mesic to mesic woodlands include *Acer saccharum*, *Ageratina altissima*, *Asarum reflexum*, *Arisaema triphyllum*, *Athyrium angustum*, *Boechera dentata*, *Cardamine concatenata*, *Carex albursina*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex grisea*, *Carex hirtifolia*, *Carex jamesii*, *Carex oligocarpa*, *Carex sparganioides*, *Carya cordiformis*, *Carya ovata*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Circaea canadensis*, *Cryptotaenia canadensis*, *Cystopteris protrusa*, *Dicentra cucullaria*, *Eutrochium purpureum*, *Festuca subverticillata*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Galium concinnum*, *Galium triflorum*, *Geranium maculatum*, *Hylodesmum glutinosum*, *Juglans nigra*, *Laportea canadensis*, *Leersia virginica*, *Osmorhiza longistylis*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Phlox divaricata*, *Phryma leptostachya*, *Poa sylvestris*, *Podophyllum peltatum*, *Prunus serotina*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus macrocarpa*, *Quercus rubra*, *Ribes missouriense*, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Smilax ecirrhata*, *Smilacina racemosa*, *Solidago flexicaulis*, *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*, *Symphyotrichum shortii*, *Tilia americana*, *Trillium recurvatum*, *Ulmus americana*, *Uvularia grandiflora*, *Viola eriocarpa*, and *Viola sororia*.

Carex shortiana Dewey

Short's Sedge

Sect. Shortianae

Named after Charles W. Short (1794-1863)

IL C = 4 FACW



This species occurs in mesic to wet-mesic woodlands and seeps, especially those along streams. It is tolerant of some disturbance and is often found in wet, compacted soil along footpaths in dry-mesic and mesic woodlands. Characteristic associates along stream banks and their associated mesic alluvial woodlands include *Acer saccharum*, *Amphicarpaea bracteata comosa*, *Antenoron virginianum*, *Asarum reflexum*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Campanulastrum americanum*, *albursina*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex grisea*, *Carex stipata*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Cornus drummondii*, *Cryptotaenia canadensis*, *Cystopteris protrusa*, *Eutrochium purpureum*, *Fraxinus nigra*, *Hydrophyllum virginianum*, *Impatiens capensis*, *Juglans nigra*, *Lactuca floridana*, *Laportea canadensis*, *Osmorhiza longistylis*, *Phlox divaricata*, *Quercus macrocarpa*, *Quercus rubra*, *Ranunculus septentrionalis*, *Ribes missouriense*, *Sambucus canadensis*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Scirpus atrovirens*, *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*, *Teucrium canadense*, *Tilia americana*, *Ulmus americana*, *Urtica gracilis*, *Verbesina alternifolia*, *Viola sororia*, and *Vitis riparia*.

Carex sparganioides Muhl. ex Willd.

Bur Reed Sedge

Sect. Phaestoglochin

Resembling a bur reed (Genus Sparganium)

C = 5 [FACU]



This robust sedge is common in dry-mesic to mesic upland woodlands. Typical associates in dry-mesic to mesic woodlands include, *Acer saccharum*, *Antenoron virginianum*, *Carex albursina*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex cephalophora*, *Carex grisea*, *Carex hirtifolia*, *Carex jamesii*, *Carex oligocarpa*, *Carex rosea*, *Carya cordiformis*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Circaea canadensis*, *Cornus drummondii*, *Cystopteris protrusa*, *Eutrochium purpureum*, *Festuca subverticillata*, *Galium concinnum*,

Galium triflorum, *Geranium maculatum*, *Hydrophyllum virginianum*, *Hylodesmum glutinosum*, *Leersia virginica*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Phryma leptostachya*, *Podophyllum peltatum*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Prunus serotina*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus macrocarpa*, *Quercus rubra*, *Ribes missouriense*, *Sanicula canadensis*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Smilax hispida*, *Solidago flexicaulis*, *Solidago ulmifolia*, *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*, *Symphyotrichum shortii*, *Tilia americana*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Trillium recurvatum*, *Ulmus americana*, *Uvularia grandiflora*, *Viola eriocarpa*, and *Viola sororia*.

Carex sprengelii Dewey ex Spreng.

Long-beaked Sedge

Sect. *Hymenochlaenae*

Named after Kurt Sprengel (1766-1833)

Synonym: *Carex longirostris* Torr. ex Schwein.

IL C = 7 FAC



This sedge is occasional in rich dry-mesic to mesic woodlands, especially those on bluffs, as well as in rich, open alluvial woodlands. In dry-mesic to mesic bluff woodlands along the Mississippi River in Rock Island County, it associates with *Ageratina altissima*, *Antennaria virginiana*, *Arisaema triphyllum*, *Athyrium angustum*, *Boechera dentata*, *Campanulastrum americanum*, *Cardamine concatenata*, *Carex blanda*, *Carex cephalophora*, *Carex davisii*, *Carex grisea*, *Carex hirtifolia*, *Carex jamesii*, *Carex sparganioides*, *Carya cordiformis*, *Carya ovata*, *Celtis occidentalis*, *Circaea canadensis*, *Cystopteris protrusa*, *Dicentra canadensis*, *Elymus villosus*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Galium triflorum*, *Geranium maculatum*, *Hydrophyllum virginianum*, *Lactuca floridana*, *Menispermum canadense*, *Osmorhiza claytonii*, *Osmorhiza longistylis*, *Panax quinquefolius*, *Phryma leptostachya*, *Poa sylvestris*, *Podophyllum peltatum*, *Polygonatum biflorum*, *Prunus serotina*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus rubra*, *Ribes missouriense*, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, *Sanicula odorata*, *Scrophularia marilandica*, *Smilacina racemosa*, *Smilax ecirrhata*, *Solidago ulmifolia*, *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*, *Symphyotrichum shortii*, *Tilia americana*, *Trillium recurvatum*, *Ulmus americana*, *Ulmus rubra*, *Viola eriocarpa*, and *Viola sororia*. For associates in rich, mesic alluvial woodlands at Land of the Swamp White Oak, Muscatine County, see the *Carex aggregata* treatment.

Additional *Carex* which may occasionally be encountered within or adjacent to dry to mesic upland woodlands where two or more communities grade into each other

Woodlands adjacent to wetlands or floodplains:

Carex conjuncta
Carex cristatella
Carex echinodes
Carex frankii
Carex grayi
Carex stipata
Carex vulpinoidea

Woodlands adjacent to upland prairies or other dry to mesic open habitats:

Carex brevior
Carex gravida
Carex inops ssp. heliophila
Carex molesta
Carex muehlenbergii
Carex tonsa
Carex umbellata

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