



Carex crinita

fringed sedge

Family Cyperaceae

Origin Native

WIS Code OBL CoC 5

DESCRIPTION

The long nodding flower spikes are characteristic of this sedge, but see below as it is easily confused with *Carex gynandra*. It is a perennial sedge growing in grass-like clumps, with stiff triangular slightly rough-edged stems 0.3 to 1.5 m tall. Leaves are 4 to 10 mm wide, flat with a few hairs on leaf margins, but having smooth leaf sheaths reddish-brown near the base.



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FLOWERS AND FRUITS

June through August. Long drooping flower spikes that can be 2.5 to 10 cm long. Usually there are one to three male spikes at the uppermost part of the stem and two to six female spikes below.



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HABITAT

Floodplain forests, seepage swamps, bogs, marshes and pond margins.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Easily mistaken for *Carex gynandra*, nodding sedge. Run your fingers along the base of the leaf sheath near the ground: *C. crinita* is smooth, but *C. gynandra* feels rough from minute stiff hairs. Then look at the long-awned scale below each individual fruit. *C. crinita*'s scales are square or notched with "sharp shoulders," whereas *C. gynandra*'s scales taper with "sloping shoulders."



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Carex crinita, scales and leaf sheath



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Carex gynandra, scales and leaf sheath



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