

Sparganium eurycarpum



giant bur-reed

Family Sparganiaceae

Origin Native

WIS Code OBL CoC 6

DESCRIPTION

Perennial with stout erect flowering stems, and long linear, strongly keeled (ribbed) flat leaves (to 2.5 m tall).

FLOWERS AND FRUITS

June through September. Large spherical bur-like flower heads (3 to 4 cm) sit atop thick, slightly zig-zag branching stems. Flower heads are green, becoming dark brown as seeds ripen. The female flowers

have two stigmas, and fruits are achenes (6 to 10 mm) with distinct wedge shape being broader at the tip than the base.

HABITAT

Swamps, floodplain depressions and low river and stream banks.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Sparganium americanum, American bur-reed, is similar in form and habit, however *S. eurycarpum* flower heads and seeds are distinctly larger. *S. eurycarpum* is the only bur-reed in West Virginia with two stigmas. See *S. americanum* page for more details on this species.



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