

Carex lupulina



hop sedge

Family	Cyperaceae		
Origin	Native		
WIS Code	OBL	CoC	6

DESCRIPTION

This species gets its common name from the very large female flower spikes, longer than they are wide, with upward pointing beaks. You can tear open the fat flower-case (perigynium) to find the diamond-shaped seed inside, with its long slightly curled tail-like style. This perennial sedge has stiff leafy triangular stems 0.3 to 1 m tall. Leaves are 6-10 mm wide, light green and smooth. Sheaths are reddish brown near the base.



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FLOWERS AND FRUITS

July through October. Male and female flower spikes are separate. Usually a single male spike at the tip of the flowering stem (rarely two or three), and two to five female spikes just below.



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HABITAT

Open wet floodplain forests, swampy areas, wet meadows, ponds, beaver marshes.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Carex grayi, Gray's sedge, also has large, fat flower spikes, but the spikes are spherical and the beaks point in all directions, not just upward. *Carex lurida*, sallow sedge, flower spikes are much smaller, and the beaks are equal in length to the body of the female flower cases (perigynia) rather than longer than the body.



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Carex grayi



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Carex lurida