



Carex gynandra

nodding sedge

Family Cyperaceae

Origin Native

WIS Code OBL CoC 6

DESCRIPTION

This species gets its common name from the characteristic drooping flower spikes that can be up to 10 cm long. It is a perennial sedge with grassy appearance. The leafy triangular jointless stems are 0.5 to 1.5 m tall. Leaves (4-13 mm wide) have sheaths that are very rough to the touch from stiff hairs along the edges, and reddish-brown nearer to the base.

FLOWERS AND FRUITS

May through July. This sedge usually has one to three male spikes at the uppermost part of the stem and two to five female spikes below. Flower-cases (perigynia) on the female spikes are smooth, flattened, oval and slightly tapering at the tip.

HABITAT

Swamps, bogs, fens, seeps, wet meadows, and beaver ponds. Most common on the western slopes of the mountains.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Commonly mistaken for *Carex crinita*. See the *Carex crinita* page for differences between these two species.



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