



# Carex lurida

## sallow sedge

Family Cyperaceae

Origin Native

WIS Code OBL CoC 4

### DESCRIPTION

*Carex lurida* has dense, almost prickly flower spikes. This perennial sedge (0.3 to 1 m tall) has smooth three-angled stems and leaves (2 to 11 mm wide) flat to W-shaped, smooth and dark green. Leaf sheaths are tan to reddish at the base.



© Larry Allain

### FLOWERS AND FRUITS

June through October. Male and female flower spikes are separate in this species. A single male spike found at the top of the flowering stem, and one to four female spikes below with lower spikes often nodding. Female flower spikes are longer than they are wide, and female flower-cases (perigynia) are ovoid and equal in length to their thin beaks. The fruits are three-angled with a curled tail-like style.



© Rob Routledge

### HABITAT

Floodplain forests, swamps, bogs and wet meadows.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

*Carex lurida* is very similar to *Carex baileyi*, Bailey's sedge, but has slightly wider leaves and flower-spikes. *Carex lurida* has fruiting spikes mostly 15-22 mm wide and widest leaf blades mostly 4.5-13 mm wide whereas *Carex baileyi* has fruiting spikes mostly 9-14 mm thick and widest leaf blades mostly 2.4-4 mm wide. *Carex lurida* is smaller than *Carex lupulina* (see the *Carex lupulina* page for differences between these two species).



© Rob Routledge