



Carex stipata

stalk-grain sedge

Family Cyperaceae

Origin Native

WIS Code OBL CoC 4

DESCRIPTION

Perennial sedge with distinctive stiff, hollow, triangular winged stems. The hollow stems are easily crushed between finger and thumb. The leaves are M-shaped in cross-section and 7-10 mm wide. Stems have wrinkled, thin, whitish sheaths at the base.

FLOWERS AND FRUITS

May to August. The numerous flower spikes are closely clustered along the stem near the tip, creating a prickly look. Female flower-cases (perigynia) (4-5 mm long) are lance-shaped with swollen bases and short beaks.

HABITAT

Floodplain forests, seeps, swamps and wet meadows.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Carex vulpinoidea, fox sedge, is distinguished by its stiff stems and perigynia (2-3 mm long) that are shorter than those of *C. stipata*. See the *C. vulpinoidea* page for more details on this species.



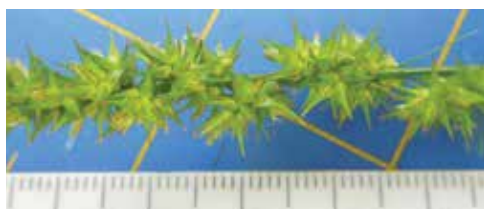
© Ian Bryson



© Rob Rourkeledge

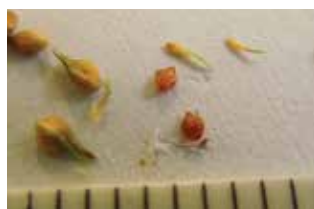


© Rob Rourkeledge



Carex stipata

© Cathy Murray



Carex vulpinoidea

© Cathy Murray