

# Scirpus cyperinus



## woolgrass bulrush

Family Cyperaceae

Origin Native

WIS Code FACW CoC 4

### DESCRIPTION

Known for its large woolly flowering heads, this species forms dense clumps and tussocks. Stems (to 1.5 m tall) are stout, robust, erect and smooth. Leaves are alternate, curving downward with green to brownish sheaths.

### FLOWERS AND FRUITS

August through September. Flower heads, at the top of fertile stems, are wide and spreading, with many clusters of spikelets on each nodding branched stalk. Wrapping the base of the flower head are downward curving leafy bracts with reddish-brown sheaths. Spikelets (3 to 8 mm long) crowd two-three per tiny stalk, are oval to egg-shaped, blunt at the tip with reddish-brown scales, and look woolly at maturity. This woolly appearance is from the six long, curly, reddish-brown bristles that surround each egg-shaped fruit (achene).

### HABITAT

Acid soils of marshes, bogs, seeps, wet meadows, and ditches.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

*Scirpus atrocinctus*, blackgirdle bulrush, is similar but rare and restricted to higher elevations. It is a less robust plant with only one spikelet on each tiny stalk in a cluster.



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*Scirpus cyperinus*



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*Scirpus atrocinctus*