



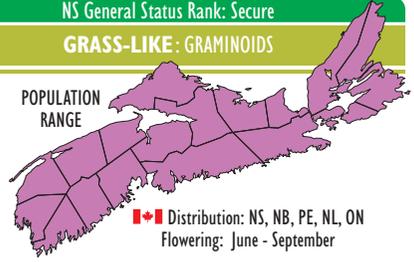
## Bayonet Rush

*Juncus militaris*

NS General Status Rank: Secure

GRASS-LIKE : GRAMINOIDS

POPULATION  
RANGE



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Flowers in full bloom

© DAVID MAZEROLLE



Mature  
fruit capsules



Red base  
of stem

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CROWLEY



Immature fruit capsules

© MEGAN  
CROWLEY

**SIZE:** Up to 150 cm tall.

**LEAVES:** Typically one stiffly erect hollow cylindrical leaf, 50-70 cm long that attaches near the middle of the stem and appears like a continuation of the stem. It is often much taller than the top of the flowers and there are many noticeable partitions (septa) along its length. Plants also produce clumps of underwater leaves which are long and hair-like.

**STEM:** Round, erect, and 30-120 cm tall. Stem bases often turn reddish later in the season.

**FLOWERS:**

Highly branched cluster of flowers (inflorescence) 1-7 cm long, with 50 or more flower heads that each contain several small flowers.

**FRUITS:** Capsules that are typically 2 to 3 mm long and contain a large number of small seeds.

**NOTES:** This plant grows from underwater roots that run along the surface of the substrate (rhizomes).

It often grows in large patches.



### Habitat:

In open water along lake edges, typically on peaty, muddy or sandy bottoms.

**Interesting point:** Some species of rushes have been used traditionally to weave baskets.

**Similar species:** Canada Rush (*Juncus canadensis*) is shorter (to 1 m), does not typically grow in open water, has fewer flowers overall and does not turn reddish at the base. Twig Rush (*Cladium mariscoides*) is shorter (to 1 m), has a smaller branched cluster of flowers (inflorescence) with fewer flower heads and does not have a tall erect leaf that greatly surpasses the flowers.



Twig Rush

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Growing in the water along the shore

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