

Button Sedge

Carex bullata

NS General Status Rank: Secure

GRASS-LIKE : GRAMINOIDS



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Male flower spike © MEGAN CROWLEY



Sallow Sedge © MARTIN THOMAS

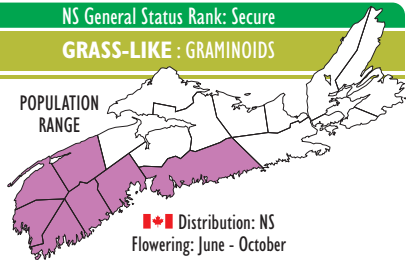
Habitat:

Wetlands (swamps, bogs, marshes), lakeshores, and stream edges

Interesting Point: Sedges look similar to rushes and grasses and are tricky to tell apart. A saying that could help is: "Sedges have edges, rushes are round, grasses are hollow right up from the ground". The stem of a sedge is generally triangular in cross-section (you can feel this by rolling it) and its leaves come off the stem in three planes. This saying can help but there are always exceptions.

Similar Species: Sallow Sedge (*Carex lurida*) is around the same size and has similar looking female and male flowers. Its leaves are generally 4-7 mm wide and higher than the top of the stem. The stem is purplish at the base. It has one male terminal flower spike and 1-4 (typically 2-3) slightly larger female flower spikes.

POPULATION RANGE



☛ Distribution: NS
Flowering: June - October

SIZE: 30-90 cm tall.

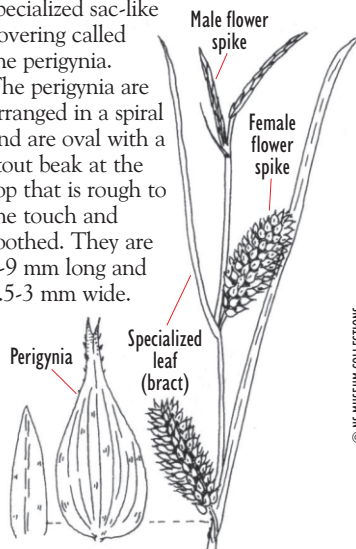
LEAVES: Specialized leaves (bracts), 2-5 mm wide, attach to the stem under the female flower spikes. They are typically not much higher than the elongated male flower spike at the top of the stem.

STEM: Slender and straight.

FLOWERS: Female flower spikes are cylindrical, yellow, and covered in points. There are 1-3 (most commonly one) per plant and they attach to the stem near the middle. Male flower spikes are elongated and light brown. They are located at the top of the stem (all on same stem), 1-3 per plant.

FRUITS: Small dry one-seeded fruits (achenes) that are enclosed by a specialized sac-like covering called the perigynia.

The perigynia are arranged in a spiral and are oval with a stout beak at the top that is rough and toothed. They are 6-9 mm long and 2.5-3 mm wide.



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Female flower spike © MEGAN CROWLEY