

# Brown Sedge

## *Carex buxbaumii*

### Description

Brown sedge is a grass-like plant that grows from long creeping rhizomes. The stems are 20 to 40 inches (0.5 to 1 meter) tall and are red-tinged at the base. The leaves are linear and elongate and about 3/16 inch (1.5 to 4) mm wide. The individual flowers are tiny, either male or female, and are clustered in cylindrical spikes near the top of flowering stems. Female flowers are enclosed by pale green sac-like structures, called perigynia, each of which is subtended by a strongly contrasting brown to dark purple scale that has a bristle-tip.

### Distribution & Habitat

Brown sedge has a transcontinental range across North America. In Pennsylvania, it occurs mostly in the southern half of the state. The species grows in wetlands, including marshes, swales, meadows, and swamps, especially those with calcareous substrates.



Photo source: John Kunsman (PNHP)

### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2014

