

Bog Sedge

Carex paupercula

Description

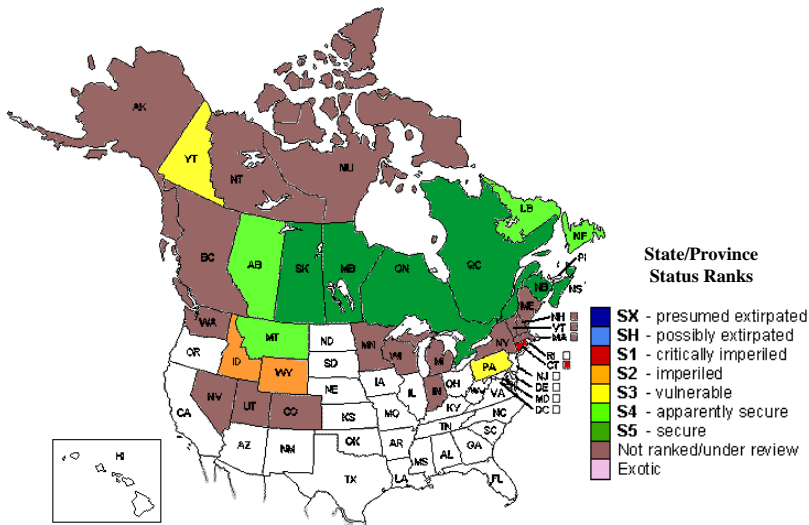
Bog Sedge is a grass-like plant with aerial stems that are triangular in cross-section and may grow to 2 feet in height (0.6 m), but are usually shorter. The leaves consist of a basal sheath that envelopes the stem and a linear, elongated blade that is about 1/8 inch (3 mm) in width. The flowers, appearing from May to July, are minute and are grouped in male or female clusters, with the usually single and stalked male cluster in an erect position at the top of the stem and the female clusters numbering 1-3 on drooping stalks farther down the stem. The female cluster consists of individual inflated sac-like structures, or perigynia, which are about 1/8 inch (3 mm) in length and contain 1 flower and later the three-sided fruit. In this species the individual perigynia are subtended and exceeded in length by a narrow, brownish, scale-like bract.



Photo source: Charlie Eichelberger (PNHP)

North American State/Province Conservation Status

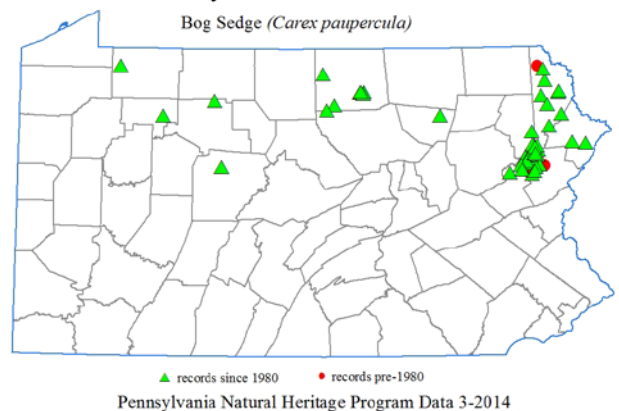
Map by NatureServe 2014



Distribution & Habitat

Bog Sedge has a transcontinental range across the cooler regions of North America. In Pennsylvania, it is considered a northern species, and has been documented historically in the northern counties. The species grows in bogs and peaty wetlands.

Pennsylvania Distribution



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Data 3-2014

Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers Bog Sedge to be a species of special concern, based on the moderate number of locations recently confirmed and the wetland habitat. It has a PA legal rarity status of Threatened and a PABS suggested rarity status of Rare.

Conservation Considerations

The viability of populations of Bog Sedge and its habitat may be enhanced by creating buffers and protecting the natural hydrology around wetlands and controlling invasive species.

NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Globally secure; S3– Vulnerable in Pennsylvania

References

- NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2014.
- Rhoads, A.F. and W.M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania: Annotated Checklist and Atlas. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
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