

# Bull Sedge

## *Carex bullata*

### Description

Bull sedge is a grass-like plant that forms colonies. The aerial stems are triangular in cross-section, purple-tinged near the base, and stand 1 to 3¼ feet (3-10 dm) tall. The leaves have linear, elongated blades that are smooth, light green, and about 1/8 inch (2-4 mm) wide. The flowers are unisexual, grouped in 1 to 3 male spikes at the top of the stem and 1 or 2 bur-like female spikes below. The female spike consist of individual inflated sac-like structures, or perigynia, which are about 3/8 inch (6 to 10 mm) long, arranged around the spike into 8 to 12 vertical rows, and contain the triangular fruit.

### Distribution & Habitat

Bull sedge has a distribution centered mainly on the coastal plain from Newfoundland south and west into Arkansas. In Pennsylvania, this species occurs on a western border of its range and has been documented historically in a few eastern counties. It grows in swamps, seepages, boggy wetlands and along streamlets.



Photo source: John Kunsman (PNHP)

### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2014

