# False Hop Sedge
## *Carex lupuliformis*

### Description

False hop sedge is a grass-like plant that grows 1½ to 3 feet (to 1 m) tall. Its common name refers to a superficial resemblance of its flower spikes to fruits of the hop vine. The leaves are linear, elongate, and up to ½ inch (13 mm) wide. The flowers are arranged in bur-like cylindrical spikes at the top of flowering stems. Male and female flowers are found in separate spikes, with usually one slender male spike held above a cluster of 2 to 6 robust female spikes. The female spikes contain densely packed, inflated sac-like structures (perigynia) that have long projecting beaks.

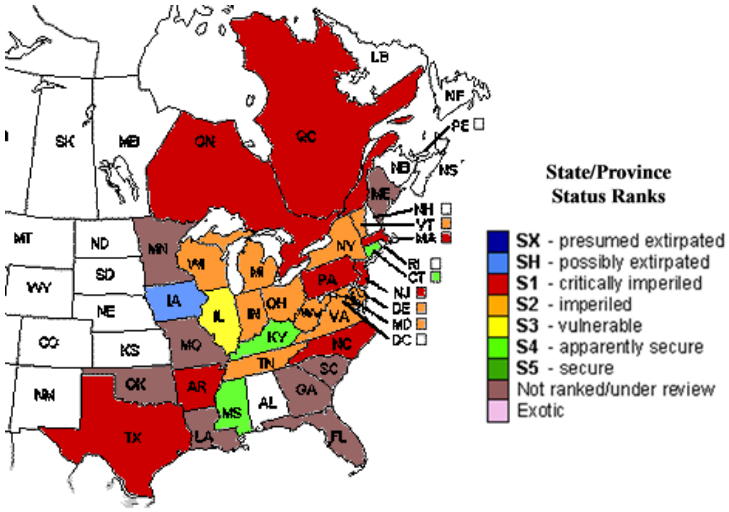
Photo source: John Kunsman (PNHP)

### Distribution & Habitat

False hop sedge has a distribution from Canada south and west into Florida and Texas. In Pennsylvania, the occurrences are mostly in the southern half of the state. This species grows in wetlands, such as vernal ponds, bottomland pools, swamps, and marshes, especially on calcareous substrates.

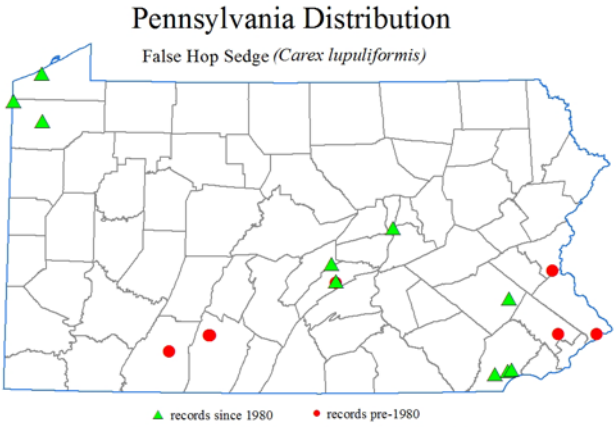
**North American State/Province Conservation Status**

Map by NatureServe 2014




### Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers false hop sedge to be a species of special concern, based on the relatively few occurrences that have been recently confirmed and its wetland habitat. It has a PA legal rarity status and a suggested rarity status of Endangered.




### Conservation Considerations

More field surveys are needed to determine the range, abundance, and ecological requirements of the false hop sedge. Creating buffers around wetlands, controlling invasive species, and protecting of wetland hydrology will help to maintain occurrences of the species.

### NatureServe conservation status ranks

G4 – Apparently globally secure; S1– Critically imperiled in Pennsylvania

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### References


- NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.1. 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.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2000. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.


Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program