



# swamp sedge

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<b>Common Name</b>	swamp sedge
<b>Genus &amp; Species</b>	<i>Carex acutiformis</i>
<b>Family</b>	Cyperaceae
<b>Order</b>	Cyperales
<b>Class</b>	

**Diagnosis:** Plants are rhizomatous and colonial. Culms (leaves) can reach between 55-130 cm tall and are pale green to brownish or red tinged. Pistillate and staminate spikes are found on the same plant. Perigynia is stringly red dotted and narrowly ovoid. It superficially resembles *C. aquatilis*, but is larger, has 3 stigmas, and has strongly veined perigynia 3–4.5 mm.

**Ecology:** Plants will flower and form fruit in June to August. Sedges are predominantly wind pollinated.

**Habitat & Distribution:** The plant is found in swamps, open wet areas or thickets, marsh edges, sedge meadows, and lake shores. The native range of this plant is Eurasia and North Africa. This species has been introduced to North America numerous times and has established populations in the northeast (CT, MA, MD, NY), parts of the Midwest (MI, IN) and Canada.

**Status:** *Carex acutiformis* forms large, glaucous clones where it is established but is, as yet, not spreading aggressively into adjacent habitats. It is dispersed by floating seed and attachment to wildlife and humans.



**USGS Fact Sheets:** <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?SpeciesID=2704>