## Carex of Northeastern Illinois and Northwestern Indiana, USA **Sedges** (Carex spp.) of the Chicago Region

Web Version

Volunteer Stewardship Network – Chicago Wilderness

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C. pellita BROAD-LEAVED WOOLLY SEDGE: bases fibrillose; lower leaf sheaths commonly yellowish-brown in the inner face. Common in wet prairies



C. pensylvanica 16 C. pensylvanica 17 C. pensylvanica COMMON OAK SEDGE: narrow dead leaves typically abundant around the red, fibrous bases; rhizomes slender, elongate; perigynia few per spike, pubescent. This is one of our first sedges to bloom, the first perigynia falling when most *Carex* species are just becoming identifiable. Dry to mesic, fequently sunny, woods, ranging to sandy prairies.



**SEDGES:** Some spikes wholly female; often pedunculate spikes; perigynia > 1 cm long.

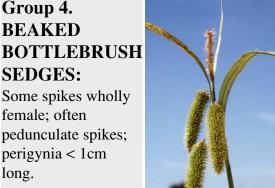
Group 3. LARGE-HEADED



C. grayi COMMON BURR SEDGE: spikes large, spherical, macelike appearance; perigynia large, dull or hairy. Wet woods.



C. lupulina COMMON HOP SEDGE: pistillate "caterpillar" spikes longer than wide, with up to 80 perigynia; perigynia swollen, bladder-like, resembling C. grayi and C. intumescens. Wet woods.



21 C. comosa



C. comosa BRISTLY SEDGE: plants often forming large clumps; spikes borne on drooping stalks, plump; perigynium beak teeth spreading or outcurved, 1-2 mm long. Open wetlands, often in standing



beaks about 2 mm long, tipped by very short straight teeth. Calcareous wetlands.





C. hystericina 24 C. hystericina PORCUPINE SEDGE: bristly inflorescences, composed of 1 cm thick cylindrical spikes, make this common plant distinctive; because of the densely packed, slightly inflated perigynia, the scabrous



awn is the only part of the pistillate scale visible; shoot bases reddish to purple, slightly fibrillose;