



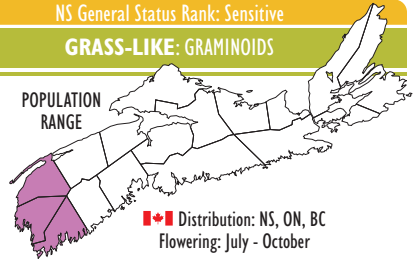
## Beaked Spikerush

*Eleocharis rostellata*

NS General Status Rank: Sensitive

GRASS-LIKE: GRAMINOIDS

POPULATION  
RANGE



🇨🇦 Distribution: NS, ON, BC  
Flowering: July - October



© MARTIN THOMAS



Curving stems

© MARTIN THOMAS



Spikelet

© MARTIN THOMAS

### Habitat:

© SEAN BLANEY

Salt marshes and coastal swales.

**Interesting point:** The tips of this plant will re-root if they come in contact with moist ground.

**Similar species:** Saltmarsh Spikerush (*Eleocharis halophila*), and Common Spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*) both have tubercles that look separate from the achene (do not appear continuous). There are 12 spikerush species in NS which all look very similar and are typically identified by comparison of the mature fruit.



Saltmarsh Spikerush

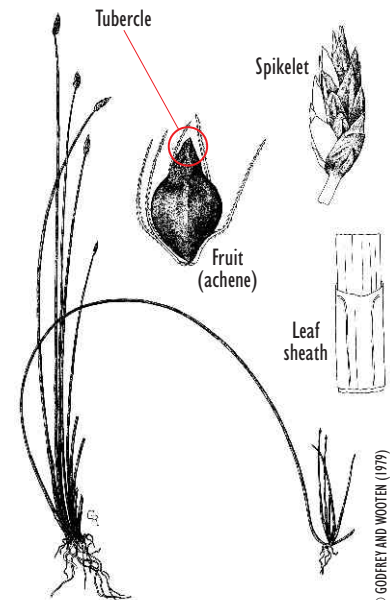
**SIZE:** 40-100 cm tall.

**LEAVES:** Appear leafless. The leaves are reduced to sheaths that surround the base of the stem.

**STEM:** Long, flattened stem (culm), 1-2 mm wide, and straight or curving toward the ground. The culms grow from a short, shallow underground stem (rhizome).

**FLOWERS:** Single, large spikelets (8-13 mm long) at the tips of the stems (culms). The spikelets are wide in the middle and narrow at both ends and are composed of 10-20 flowers that are covered by brownish scales.

**FRUITS:** Each flower in the spikelet turns into a dry, one seeded fruit (achene) that is light greenish to brown and has a prominent pale tubercle at the tip. The achene and tubercle appear continuous and are 2-2.8 mm long. Bristles emerge from the base and are about the height of the achene.



© GODFREY AND WOOTEN (1979)