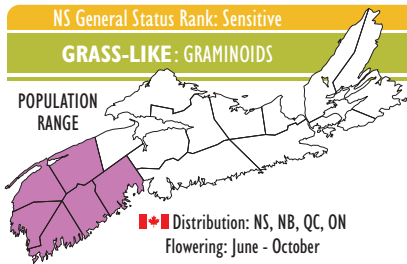




POPULATION RANGE



✚ Distribution: NS, NB, QC, ON
Flowering: June - October

SIZE: 3-15 cm tall.

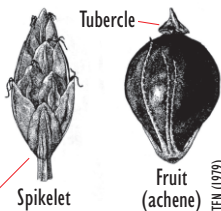
LEAVES: Appear leafless. The leaves are reduced to sheaths that surround the base of the stem. The leaf sheaths are loose at the base and have white tips.

STEM: Small, tufted, widely spreading stems (culms). They grow from a slender and delicate underground stem (rhizome).

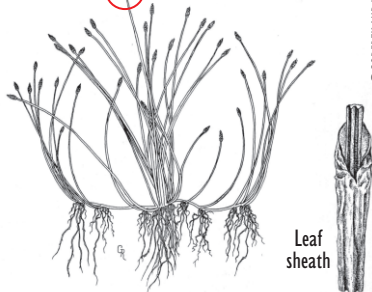
FLOWERS: Single oval spikelets (2-7 mm long) at the tip of the stems (culms). Each spikelet contains less than 20 flowers and is covered by brownish scales. There are bands running from the tip to the base of the scales.

FRUITS: Each flower in the spikelet turns into a dry, one seeded fruit (achene), 1 mm long. They have a short pale tubercle at the tip with a swollen base. White or pale green bristles emerge from the base and are usually shorter than the achene.

NOTES: The stems (culms) of this species are often bent over allowing the fruiting spikelets to touch the ground.



© GODFREY AND WOOTEN (1979)



Leaf sheath



© SEAN BLANEY



Spikelets

© SEAN BLANEY



© SEAN BLANEY

Habitat:

Sandy lakeshores and wetlands (peaty bogs).

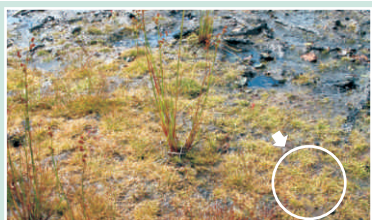
Interesting point: Spikerushes are a type of sedge and there are over 250 species in this family worldwide.

Similar species: Ovate Spikerush (*Eleocharis ovata*) and Blunt Spikerush (*Eleocharis obtusa*) have leaf sheaths that are tight to the stem and without white tips. Blunt Spikerush also has bristles that are higher than the top of the tubercle. There are 12 spikerush species in NS which all look very similar and are typically identified by comparison of the mature fruit. *Eleocharis flavescens* var. *flavescens* is not found in NS.



Blunt Spikerush

© SEAN BLANEY



Grows close to the ground

© SEAN BLANEY