



Scirpus atrovirens

green bulrush

Family	Cyperaceae	
Origin	Native	
WIS Code	OBL	CoC 3

DESCRIPTION

Perennial rush with solitary or only a few stems forming a loose clump. The stems (80 to 1.5 m tall) are erect, smooth and three-sided with rounded angles. Leaves are alternate, green to yellowish green, arching to floppy, with mid-vein furrow and with sheaths that sometimes have polka-dot marks.



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FLOWERS AND FRUITS

June through August. Flower heads (umbels) at the top of stems are spherical clusters of spikelets with a few small branches having smaller clusters. Leafy short bracts (three or more) are at the base of the flower heads. Spikelets (8 mm long) are oval to egg-shaped, blunt at the tip and gray-green turning dark rusty. The fruits are achenes (1 mm long), elliptical, with three-angles and surrounded by bristles the same length as the achene.



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Scirpus atrovirens

HABITAT

Floodplain forests, swamps, seeps, depression ponds, and wet meadows.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Scirpus polyphyllus, leafy bulrush, is distinguished from other *Scirpus* species by its very leafy stem (10 to 20 leaves versus eight or less for *S. atrovirens*), and contorted bristles much longer than its achene.



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Scirpus polyphyllus, achene and leafy stem