

Carex stricta



tussock sedge

Family	Cyperaceae		
Origin	Native		
WIS Code	OBL	CoC	6

DESCRIPTION

This perennial sedge grows in dense clumps. The vegetative stems (30 to 80 cm long) are thin and narrow, with strongly angled rough edges, and often drooping over. The stem bases are wrapped in a ladder-like fibrous sheath. The light to dark green leaves are 2 to 6 mm wide.

FLOWERS AND FRUITS

May to August. Flower stems (0.5 to 1.5 m) are longer than the vegetative stems. The flower spikes are upright and 1.5 to 11 cm long. Female flower-cases (perigynia) are oval and yellow-brown with red-brown spots. Female scales are also red-brown, beakless and shorter than the perigynia.

HABITAT

Swamps, wet meadows, and low stream banks.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Carex torta, twisted sedge, shares the habit of growing in large clumps, but lacks the ladder-like sheaths and is primarily found on stream banks and rocky beds. *Carex pellita*, woolly sedge, has dense hairs on its perigynia, and is generally found in calcareous or marl fens.



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Female perigynia

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Carex pellita

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