



Long's Bulrush

Scirpus longii



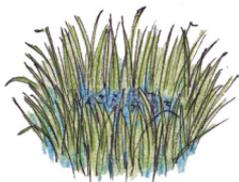
© BRENNAN COVERHILL (MAIN); MEGAN CROWLEY (INSERT)



V-shaped leaf

Species Description

Long's Bulrush is a slow growing grass-like plant that frequently forms circular colonies (but not always). It has tough, v-shaped, serrated leaves that typically arch backwards. Leaves are 40-80 cm long and 5-9 mm wide. Open branched flower clusters occur at the top of tall, erect stems up to 2 m tall. Flower clusters contain drooping branches with oval, black spikelets at their tips, however flowers are not often observed in NS.



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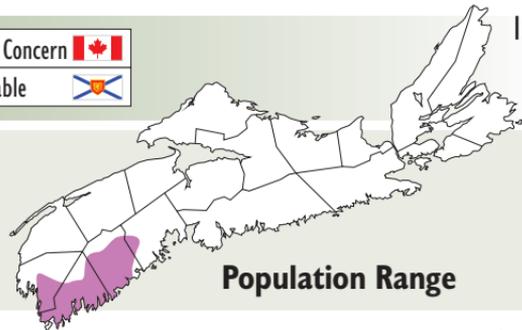
STATUS

Special Concern 

Vulnerable



Sparsely scattered in peatlands and lakeshores within southwestern Nova Scotia.



Population Range

Habitat

Found in wetlands including stillwater meadows, inland fens, bay bogs, barrier bogs and peat lakeshores. It generally occurs in the most waterlogged portions of these habitats, where competition from shrubs is low. It is typically submerged in water from November until April.



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Long's Bulrush is found in wetlands. Flowering is rare and identification is mainly through features of the leaves and circular growth. It flowers in June and July.

Interesting Points

- This species is globally imperilled.
- In Nova Scotia, the largest circular clusters of Long's Bulrush are 5-10 meters in diameter and 150-400 years old - older than many trees!
- Its age can be accurately estimated by counting the annual bulge (summer) and thinning (winter) of the rhizome (underground stem).



Flower cluster

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Threats to Survival

- Activities that alter wetland water levels, flow, and drainage (development, roads, agriculture).
- Off-highway vehicle damage to circular colonies (allows other plants to invade).
- Genetic hybridization with the more weedy Common Bulrush.



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OHV tracks beside Long's Bulrush plants

Various growth patterns from left to right:



© SEAN BLANEY (LEFT AND MIDDLE)

© BRAD TOMS

Single Long's Bulrush plant, half circular cluster, and full (front) and half (back) circular clusters.

Similar Species

Of the other bulrush species in NS *Scirpus cyperinus*, *S. atrocinctus* and *S. pedicellatus* are most similar. These three species frequently flower, do not form circular colonies, have thinner leaves and are found in more nutrient-rich habitats.

Northern Beaked Sedge

(*Carex utriculata*): Similar leaves and often in similar habitats. Does not form dense circular clusters and has a more cellular look to the leaf base.



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How You Can Help

Tell others about ACPF and how they can help! Many people living with these unique species do not realize how rare these species are and how special Nova Scotia is! The species featured in this guide are found nowhere else in Canada and Nova Scotia has some of the most intact habitat remaining for these species in the world.



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Long's Bulrush growing along the lakeshore

Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: NS DNR (902) 679-6091

Info: www.speciesatrisk.ca/coastalplainflora, www.speciesatrisk.ca/stewardshipguide

Sighting Reports: 1-866-727-3447 or www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings

Stewardship: Nova Scotia Nature Trust: nature@nsnt.ca, MTRI: info@merseytobeatic.ca 134