

**Carex livida**

Cyperaceae

Pale sedge



Lois Kemp



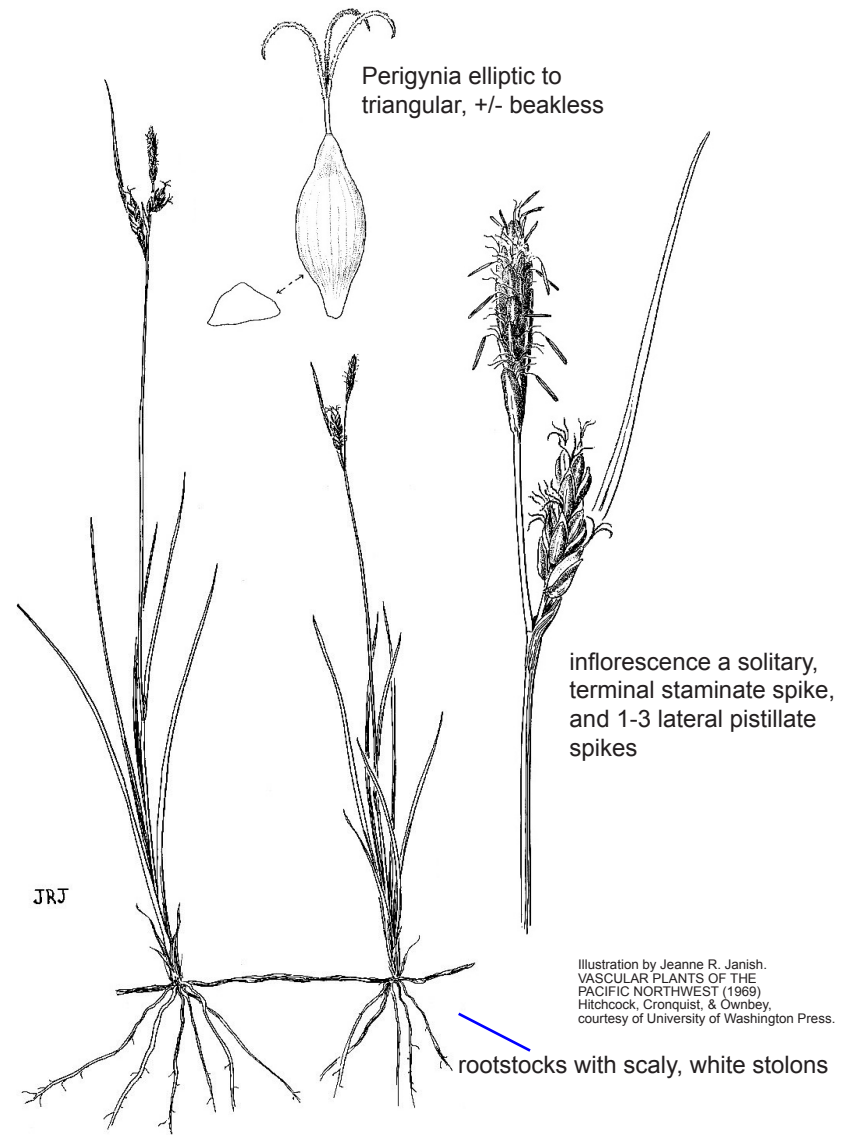
Bruce Newhouse



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**Rootstocks** long and slender with scaly, white stolons. **Stems** arising singly, 50-60 cm tall, old leaves conspicuous, some old basal sheaths present. **Leaves** mostly basal, blades are channeled, thick, and glaucous-green, sheaths brownish below, ligule short, lowest bract sheathing. **Inflorescence** a solitary, terminal staminate spike, and lateral pistillate spikes 1-3, erect, long-peduncled; scales obtuse or ovate, shorter than perigynia, chestnut to purplish color with hyaline margins; perigynia closely ascending, obscurely triangular, glaucous-green and beakless or with a very short straight beak. **Achene** triangular and jointed to the style.

**Lookalikes**

*Carex spp.*

*C. klamathensis*

**differs from featured plant by**

The longer, fusiform and beakless or straight-beaked perigynia distinguish *C. livida* from other *Carex* species. its shorter, obovate perigynia with curved beaks.

best survey times  
J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D

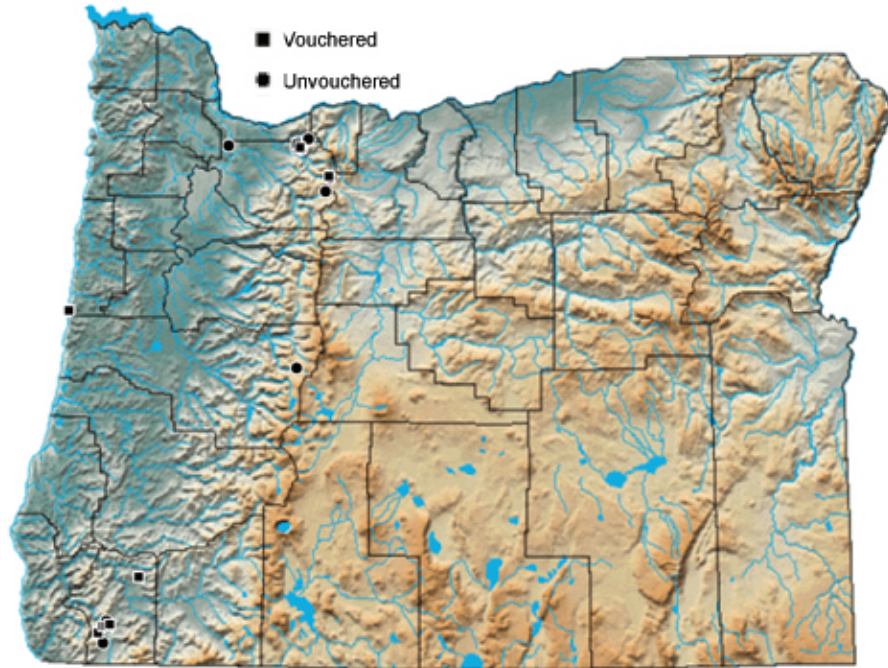


## *Carex livida* (Wahlenb.) Willd.

Pale sedge

PLANTS symbol: CALI

August 2019 status ORBIC: List 2



**Distribution:** Circumboreal, Labrador to Alaska and south to New Jersey and Northern California. In Oregon it occurs in Clackamas and counties south, in Washington it occurs in Gray's Harbor County. Populations in Oregon are remnants from glacial times.

**Habitat:** Found in sphagnum bogs, swampy woods and other wet, poorly drained places.

**Elevation:** 700-1850 m

**Best survey time (in flower):** May through August

### **Associated species:**

*Carex* spp. (Sedges)

*Kobresia simpliciuscula* (Compound kobresia)

*Diphasiastrum alpinum* (Alpine clubmoss)

*Darlingtonia californica* (California pitcher plant, cobra lily)

