

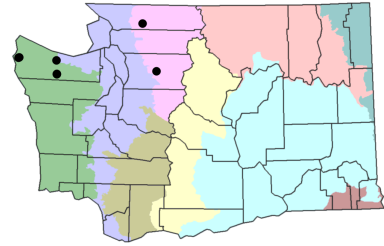
## ***Carex pluriflora*** Hultén

several-flowered sedge

Cyperaceae - sedge family

status: State Sensitive, BLM strategic, USFS strategic

rank: G5 / S1S2



**General Description:** Perennial 10-60 cm tall; stems phyllopodic, with dead leaf remains at base. Roots with a yellowish felt-like covering. Leaves hairless, 2-4 mm wide; margins sometimes rolled under, roughened at the tip.

**Floral Characteristics:** Terminal spike male, solitary, 10-25 x 2.2-3 mm. Bract subtending the lowest spike 5-20 mm in length, shorter than the inflorescence. Lateral spikes female, 12-20 x 6-8 mm, with (7) 10-25 perigynium. Female scales ovate-circular, 3.5-4.5 x 2.1-3.8 mm, slightly shorter than and wider than perigynia; tip pointed to shortly awned (less than 1.5 mm). Perigynia 3.2-4.2 x 1.5-2.6 mm, hairless, minutely papillate, beakless, tip tapering to rounded. Stigmas 3. Flowers June to mid-August.

**Fruits:** Achenes 3-angled, almost as large as the perigynium body.

**Identification Tips:** Similar sedges also with a yellowish feltlike covering on the roots include *Carex macrochaeta*, *C. magellanica* ssp. *irrigua*\*, and *C. limosa*. However, *C. macrochaeta* and *C. magellanica* ssp. *irrigua* have female scales with awns 1.5-12 mm long. *C. limosa* is aphyllopodic, has perigynia with beaks 0.1-0.5 mm, and leaf margins rolled inward.

**Range:** Siberia, B.C., AK, OR, and WA.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Wetlands, boggy lake margins, prairies, stream banks, and coastal inland areas; often in sphagnum or peaty soils dominated by herbaceous plants. Populations in coastal areas sometimes receive saltwater influence. Some populations in WA are seasonally flooded; one was burned and grazed in the past. Associated species include Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), mountain hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), bog Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*), sedges (*Carex echinata*, *C. stylosa*, and others), alpine laurel (*Kalmia microphylla*), and roundleaf sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*). Elevations in WA: 50-965 m (160-3160 ft).

**Comments:** Threats include pollution, trampling by grazing animals, recreation, and off-road vehicle use.

**References:** Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 23.



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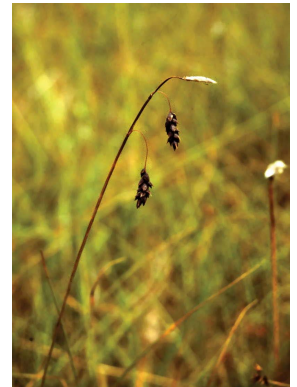


photo by Linda Kunze

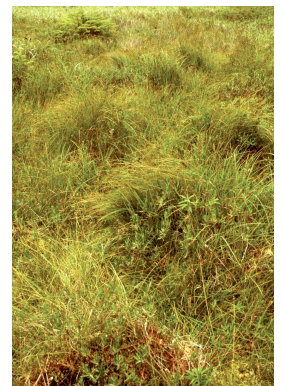


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