

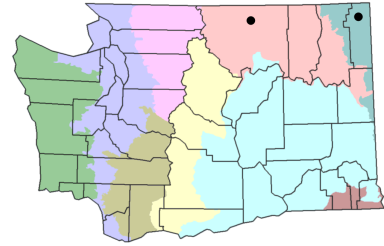
Carex tenera* Dewey var. *tenera

quill sedge

Cyperaceae - sedge family

status: State Threatened, USFS sensitive

rank: G5TNR / S1



General Description: Adapted from Flora of North America (1993+): Densely tufted, stems often nodding, 2-9 dm. Leaf blades 15-35 cm x 1.3-2.5 (3) mm.

Floral Characteristics: Spikes 3-8, distant or loosely clustered (not densely aggregated), 4-10 x 3.5-6 mm, terminal spikes gynaeandrous. Female scales white to translucent or pale brown, ovate, 2.3-3.3 mm, narrower and often shorter than the perigynia. Perigynia erect to ascending, brown, plano-convex, with 5-7 nerves ventrally, and nerveless or with 3-7 faint nerves dorsally, ovate, 2.8-4 x 1.4-1.9 (2) mm, 2-2.3 times as long as wide; margins flat, including wing 0.1-0.5 mm wide, ciliate to toothed at least above. Beak exceeding female scales by up to 0.8 mm; tip straw-colored to reddish brown, flat, somewhat fringed. Distance from beak tip to achene 1.3-2.7 mm. Stigmas 2.

Fruits: Achenes lenticular, ovate, 1.3-1.7 x 0.85-1.1 mm. Fruits late spring to September.

Identification Tips: *Carex subfusca* has erect stems and green to light brown perigynia that are 2.1-2.7 times as long as wide. *C. bebbii* has reddish brown perigynia and densely clustered spikes. *C. brevior* has broadly ovate to orbicular perigynia that are 1.2-1.8 times as long as wide.

Range: Southern Canada, south to OR, WY, KS, MO, KY, and NC.

Habitat/Ecology: Dry to moist meadows, open forests, shrub wetlands, and lake shores. Associated species include paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*), willow (*Salix* spp.), field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), large-leaved avens (*Geum macrophyllum*), thistles (*Cirsium* spp.), and sedges (*Carex lenticularis*, *C. flava*).

Comments: The WA population is adjacent to a campground; threats include fluctuation of the reservoir level and recreational development. This taxon is rare in several states and Canadian provinces.

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



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